METRO / A17

QC prosecutor's office finds probable cause in abuse complaint vs Willie Revillame

BUSINESS / B1

Gov't sees strong growth in second quarter

ACROSS / A15

Media killings getting bolder, summit told

NEWS / A2

Esperon calls for peace talks, 3-year ceasefire with CPP-NPA

If US is richest country, why isn't it the tallest?

NEW YORK—AMERICA used to be the tallest country in the world.

But just as it has in so many other arenas, America's predominance in height has faded. Americans reached a height plateau after

IF US/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, July 17, 2007 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 219 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

LA cardinal apologizes to sex abuse victims

LOS ANGELES—CARDINAL ROGER MAHONY, leader of America's largest Roman Catholic archdiocese, apologized on Sunday to the hundreds of people who will get a share of a $660 million settlement over allegations of sex abuse by the clergy.

"There really is no way to go back and give them that innocence that was taken from them. The one thing I wish I could give the victims...

LA CARDINAL/ A8

Puno: Time to use power of judiciary

PUNO: Unprecedented summit
EDWIN BACASMAS

Militants sit beside 'suspects' at summit

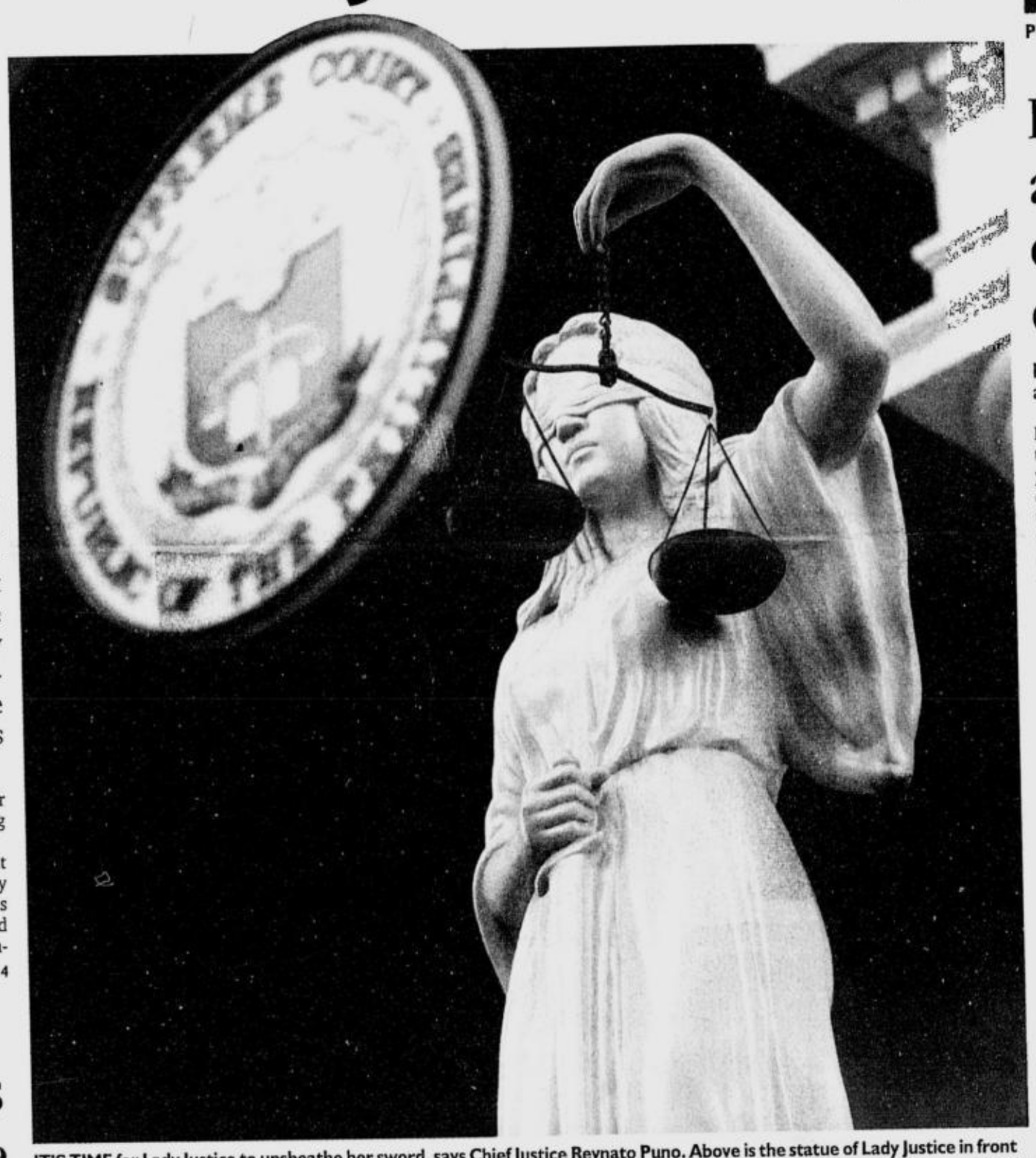
By Volt Contreras, Norman Bordadora and TJ Burgonio

LADY JUSTICE MUST NOW "unsheathe (her) unused power" if elected political leaders entrusted with upholding human rights cannot fulfill that role, Chief Justice Reynato Puno said yesterday at the unprecedented summit he called to stem the surge of extrajudicial killings in the country.

Puno did not hide his frustration over the inadequacies of the system in dealing with extrajudicial killings.

"Over the years, the expectation that human rights could best be protected by the political branches of government has been diluted," Puno said as he opened the two-day National Consultative Sum-

PUNO/ A14



IT'S TIME for Lady Justice to unsheathe her sword, says Chief Justice Reynato Puno. Above is the statue of Lady Justice in front of the Supreme Court building on Taft Avenue, Manila.
RYAN LIM

High court asked to rule on legality of terror law

By Leila B. Salaverria and Christian V. Esguerra

IN THE FIRST LEGAL SALVO AGAINST the antiterror law, a group advocating peace and a human rights lawyer yesterday questioned the constitutionality of the state's "gravely flawed" definition of terrorism, terrorism's confusion with crimes against humanity and the concept of human security.

The petitioners—Southern Hemisphere Engagement Network Inc. and lawyer Soliman Santos—acknowledged that there was a need for a law against terrorism, but warned that the Human Security Act of 2007 and its erroneous definition of terrorism would hinder the legitimate fight against it.

They asked the high tribunal to annul the law and, while their petition was being studied, to temporarily stop its implementation. The HSA took effect July 15.

Militant groups Kilusang Mayo Uno, the National Federation of Labor Unions-KMU and the Center for Trade Union and Human Rights also sought to annul the HSA and asked the Supreme Court to issue a TRO against its implementation on the grounds that it violates various constitutional rights.

The groups also said the HSA was invalid for being vague.

The new law defines terrorism as any

HIGH COURT/ A14

Experts say GMA, officers may be liable

By Volt Contreras and Leila B. Salaverria

PRESSURE IS MOUNTING ON PRESIdent Macapagal-Arroyo to stop the political killings even as law experts warned she and her military commanders may be held accountable even if they had no direct involvement in such crimes.

Speaking at a historic two-day summit yesterday, one Filipino legal expert suggested a review of the constitutional principle that grants the President immunity from lawsuits.

Two foreign experts said military commanders could be held responsible if

EXPERTS/ A13

Anti-Red paper called for antiterror act

By Norman Bordadora

(Last of two parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

BAYAN MUNA'S PLACING SECOND IN the May 14 party-list election, its weakest showing after topping the 2001 and 2004 elections, may have been caused by a campaign aimed at weakening its mass base.

A paper submitted to Malacañang after President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed office had proposed that her administration intensify the military presence in areas that delivered votes to Bayan Muna in 2001.

The paper, titled "Proposed Politico Military Strategies and Tactics to Counter the Local Communist Movement and Bayan Muna Using Total Government Approach," called for the formation of organizations against suspected national democrat-affiliates of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), such as Bayan Muna.

Another proposal sought to employ "a task group of Scout Ranger companies at the center of gravity of guerrilla fronts and with a mission to decimate the regular and militia units of the local communist movement (LCM)."

"These centers of gravity could be areas where there are active LCM guerrilla fronts and areas that delivered votes to Bayan Muna," the paper said.

Starting in the middle of 2006 and until a few months before the 2007 elec-

ANTI-RED/ A14

Writ of amparo protects citizens against abuses

By Ismael G. Khan Jr.

(Editor's Note: The writer is the former "spokesman" of the Supreme Court. The views expressed herein are his own and do not necessarily represent those of the Supreme Court or any of its members.)

COMMENTARY

THE QUESTION OF WHAT IT IS EXACTly was what stumped and discombobulated thousands of would-be lawyers in the 1991 bar examinations on Political Law, with then Press Secretary Adolfo S. Azcuna as the examiner. As Supreme Court associate justice, he now chairs the 2007 bar examinations to be given in September, and a revisit of the writ of amparo can reasonably be expected. But this time around, it will be for a very timely and relevant reason.

In all likelihood, "amparo" will become a household name when the constitutionality of Republic Act No. 9372, better known as the Human Security Act of 2007, is put to the test as soon as the government begins to implement many of law's provisions that are supposedly designed to protect our people from acts of terrorism as it is defined in the law.

WRIT/ A13

ARMED Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Esperon and Bayan Muna Rep. Ocampo talk to the media during Monday's summit at the Manila Hotel. AFP

MILF won't surrender rebels behind beheading of Marines

MORO GUERRILLAS YESTERDAY REJECTED government demands for them to immediately surrender those responsible for beheading 10 Philippine Marines in an ambush on Basilan, and braced for more clashes.

Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels have acknowledged attacking a convoy of Marines who were returning from a search for kidnapped Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi last Tuesday, but denied they decapitated 10 of them.

The gruesome killings have caused outrage in this predominantly Roman Catholic country, with at least one Church leader calling the guerrillas "inhuman."

"We will not surrender any of our fighters," chief MILF negotiator Mohagher Iqbal said.

"It is premature to talk about a surrender," MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu told The Associated Press by telephone. "There has to be an investigation first. We do not mutilate bodies, we have nothing to do with this.

MILF/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2007

EZ2 FOUR DIGIT

15 3 | 6 0 2 3

Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening

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(All in exact order)

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4 5 7 17 24 34

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Second FrontPage

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northwestern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/07/16/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

PEACE TALKS COULD RESUME

Esperon calls for truce with Reds

By Fe Zamora and TJ Burgonio

ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF GEN. HERMOgenes Esperon yesterday called for a revival of the peace talks with the communists but on condition the insurgents agree to a bilateral ceasefire for the remaining three years of President Macapagal-Arroyo's term in 2010.

Esperon, who made the proposal at the start of the two-day summit convened to address the spate of extrajudicial killings, said the killings and enforced disappearances were caused by the communist insurgency.

"If we do not want any more of these, the communist insurgency must be stopped," he said, lashing out at the communists, political opposition and human rights groups for blaming the military for the murder of 869 political activists and 180 abductions and disappearances since Ms Arroyo took office.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo, a former rebel who was at yesterday's summit, rebuffed Esperon on his proposed three-year ceasefire as a precondition for the resumption of peace talks.

"That should not be used as a basis for the resumption of talks," Ocampo said in an interview, noting that the National Democratic Front of the Philippines had already rejected such a proposal.

Ocampo said the implementation of the agreements signed before the peace talks were scuttled in August 2004 should be the basis for the reopening of the talks. Among these agreements were the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, and the Joint Agreement on Security and Immunity Guarantees, he said.

Other left-wing lawmakers criticized the military chief, saying he was trying to link the killings to the truce offer.

"Stopping extrajudicial killings is an unconditional demand that shouldn't be unfairly and maliciously premised on the capitulation of the rebels," Teddy Casiño, also a party-list congressman, told Reuters in a mobile phone text message.

"That's an illogical proposal. The killings of unarmed civilians shouldn't happen at all, even if fighting rages between the armed forces and the New People's Army."

On Saturday, Ms Arroyo herself had offered to resume talks with the communist rebels.

"If they are still willing to come to the table, we are still willing to come to the table. We would rather have peace than war," she had told Reuters in an interview.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, however, said he was skeptical the communists would accept such an offer.

"Well, I'm in favor of that (peace talks) but the problem is we have been offering a ceasefire to the communists but they have never accepted," he told reporters yesterday.

President Arroyo earlier this year ordered the military to "crush" the CPP-NPA, calling them the number one threat to national security, next only to Islamic militants linked to the al-Qaida.

The Communist Party of the Philippines, and its 7,000-strong armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), has been waging a Maoist rebellion since 1969, in what is one of Asia's longest running communist insurgencies.

Negotiations with the CPP-NPA have been suspended since 2004 over the rebels' inclusion in the US and European governments' list of foreign terrorist organizations and a subsequent crackdown on international funds being channeled to the movement.

Analysts have said the military would be hard pressed to finish off the NPA as its forces are stretched fighting insurgents in the countryside.

Human rights groups have charged that the nearly 40-year-old insurgency has also led to a military strategy that arbitrarily attacks legitimate left-wing political groups labelled as "fronts" for the rebels.

A UN human rights envoy in January also singled out military forces as being responsible for most of the killings.

Esperon called the accusations unfair, saying the military does not "arbitrarily label" leftist groups as fronts for the communist rebels. He denied the Philippine military had a policy of targeting civilians and was waging a "dirty war" against its political opponents. *With Leila Salaverria and Michael Lim Ubac; Reuters, AP, AFP*

Google SEC website 'harmful'

By Erwin Oliva
INQUIRER.net

SEARCH ENGINE GOOGLE HAS tagged the website of the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission as being "harmful," an SEC official confirmed yesterday.

"We are aware of this. I found out about it this morning," Hubert Guevara, SEC compliance and enforcement department director, told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Guevara said he had called the attention of the agency's Economic Research Information Department, which is in charge of the SEC's computer system.

"I have sent a letter to our director to verify it," he said.

An online search of "SEC" or the "Securities Exchange Commission" using Google leads to a warning that going to the Philippine government agency's website "may harm your computer!"

"You can learn more about harmful web content and how to protect your computer at StopBadware.org," the Google advisory says, adding that you could continue surfing the website at "your own risk."

StopBadware.org is an online "neighborhood watch" committed to fighting all forms of "badware, not just software that steals your information (spyware) or software that pops up unexpected ads (deceptive adware)," according to its website's FAQs.

StopBadware.org is headed by Harvard Law's Berkman Center for Internet & Society and Oxford University's Oxford Internet Institute, Google, Lenovo and Sun Microsystems.

Guevara said the SEC had written Google to find out why StopBadware.org had tagged the agency's website as harmful.

Asked what could have caused Google to post the warning, Guevara declined to comment. "I don't want to speculate. But you can still go to our website directly. The warning shows up [only] when you do a search [through] Google."

NO TO DEAL WITH JAPAN
Former Vice President Teofisto Guingona (center) leads the opposition to the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa) at a press conference called by the Magkaisa Junk Jpepa coalition at Miriam College in Quezon City on Monday. Guingona charged the Jpepa was one-sided in favor of Japan. Beside Guingona is Akbayan party-list Rep. Risa Hontiveros. JOAN BONDOC

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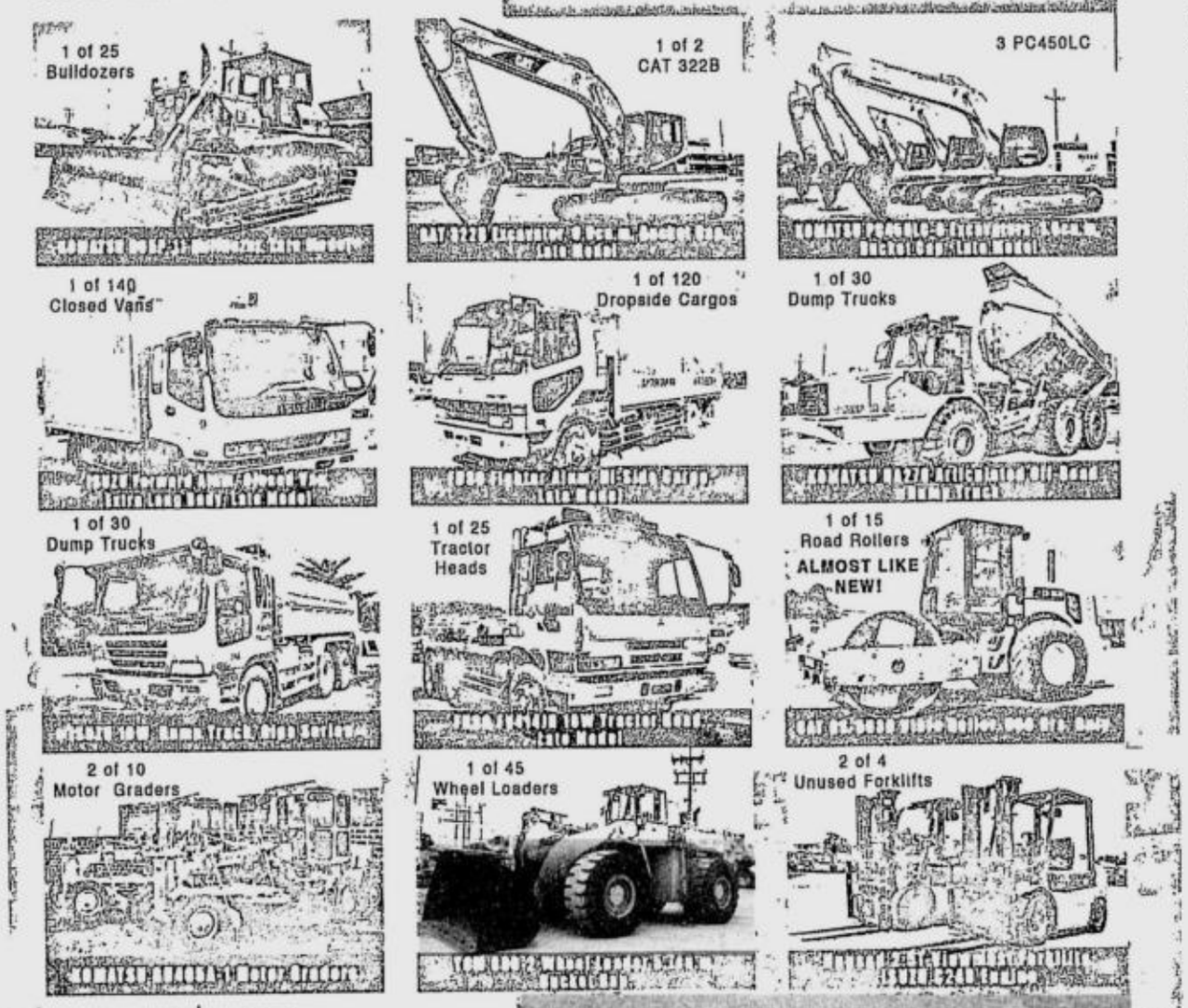

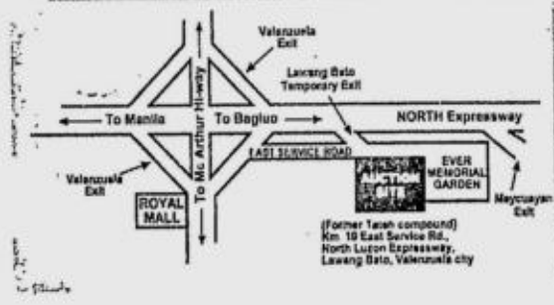

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Bedol must face raps at Comelec today

By Jerome Aning

CONTROVERSIAL MAGUINDANAO COMmission on Elections supervisor Lintang Bedol is expected to appear today before the Comelec en banc in Manila to answer contempt charges.

Comelec Commissioner Nicodemo Ferrer, head of Task Force Maguindano formed to investigate alleged election irregularities in the province, said Bedol was bound to present himself because a non-appearance this morning would be "damaging" not only to him but to his lawyer, Andrei Bon Tagum.

"He said he is not guilty so why will he not show up? If he doesn't show up, it only means that he has no evidence to contradict the charges against him and he will be held in contempt. But I think he will appear, or else his lawyer will also be put on the spot," Ferrer told reporters.

The hearing had been originally scheduled 10 days ago but was reset for today as the commission at the time was busy wrapping up its canvassing of the senatorial votes and dealing with challenges before the Supreme Court.

Bedol is facing four charges, including one for contempt, for his failure to comply with the summons and subpoenas issued by the Comelec, for taking Maguindanao election documents into his custody illegally, for challenging the poll body to file charges against him and for boasting of having a cache of firearms.

Bedol may present evidence and witnesses in his defense, Ferrer said.

"He has the burden of proving his innocence of the contempt charges. I also have the right to rebut his evidence and claims," he explained.

Bedol was released on July 3 under the limited recognizance of Tagum, meaning Tagum must produce Bedol whenever he is summoned by the Comelec.

Isafp party funds for Jonas

By Fe Zamora and Christine O. Avendaño

IN CONTRAST TO ITS LAVISH CHRISTMAS party last December, the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) yesterday marked its founding anniversary simply and without fanfare, according to an INQUIRER source.

Instead of holding a bash, Isafp chief Maj. Gen. Delfin Bangit told employees the funds for the party would go toward finding missing activist Jonas Burgos, according to the source who requested anonymity.

The fare included fried chicken and chopsuey—austere compared to the roasted calf, lechon and draft beer that Isafp members feasted on amid live band music in their Christmas party.

The source said Bangit took pains to explain to the rank and file the steps he had taken to defend Isafp.

"The accusations hurled at Isafp are not true. It's all propaganda," the source quoted Bangit as saying.

Bangit also told the Isafp employees about his meeting with Edita Burgos, mother of the missing activist and widow of the late media icon Jose Burgos Jr.

"I have met her, but she does not believe me. There's nothing I can do anymore," Bangit was quoted as saying.

Burgos, 36, has been missing since he was forcibly taken from a Quezon City mall on April 28.

State prosecutor Manny Velasco, citing an informant, said three of the alleged abductors were members of Isafp.

Meanwhile, the car identified as one of the vehicles allegedly used by Burgos' abductors, is just sitting in Army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino's garage.

"[When the justice department informant identified my car], it was like a go-signal to the New People's Army's sparrow unit to target it," Tolentino told reporters in Fort Bonifacio where he attended the wake of Marine killed in Basilan last week.

Tolentino said his wife used to use the car, a maroon Toyota Altis with plate number XBC 881, to attend official functions.

Asean holds 2-day meet on rights

AS PHILIPPINE JURISTS LED national leaders in a summit to tackle the problem of extrajudicial killings in the country, representatives from member-nations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) met at another venue yesterday to formulate a mechanism to protect human rights in the region.

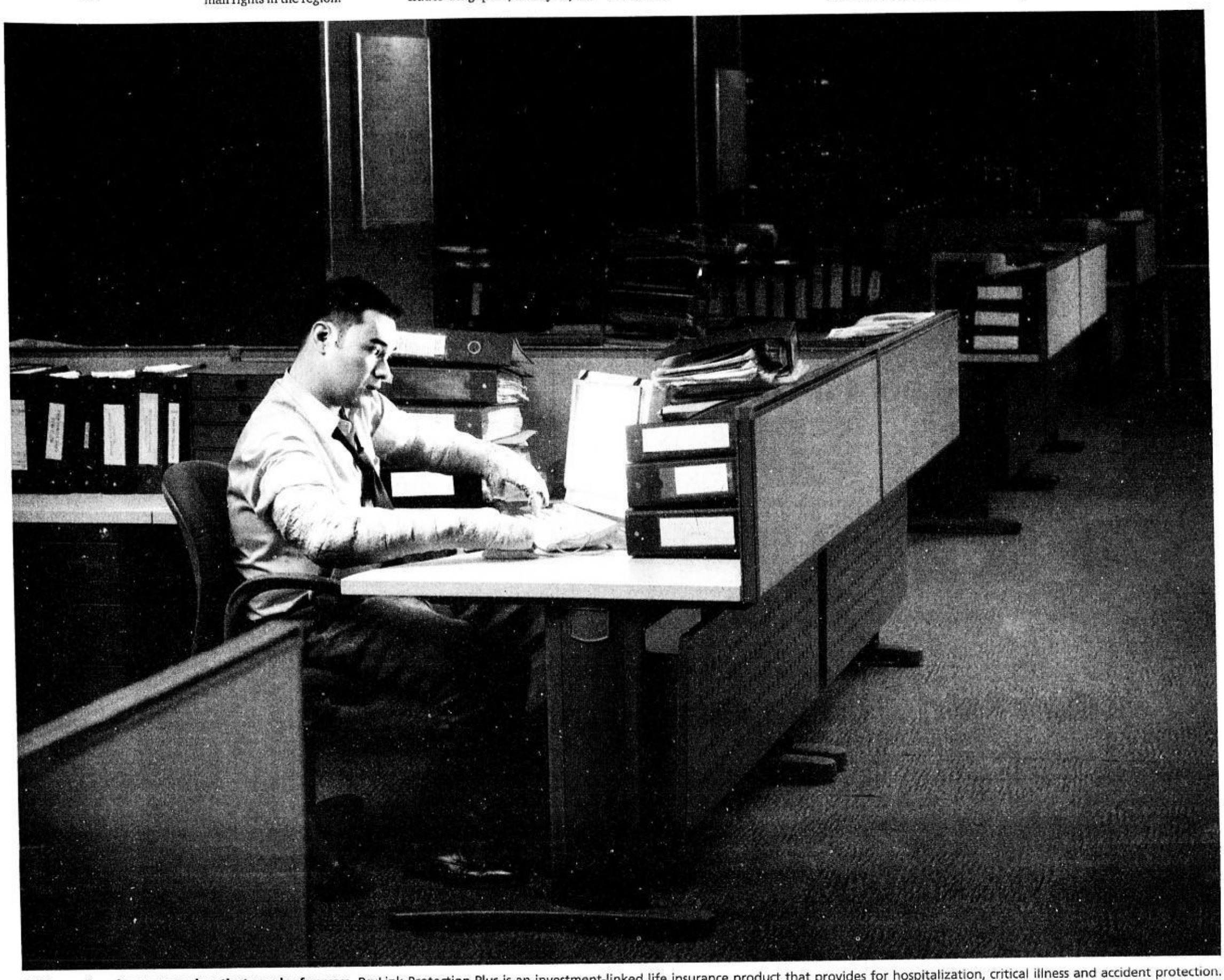
Asean officials opened the sixth workshop on the Asean Regional Mechanism on Human Rights, a two-day meet aimed at institutionalizing a regional commission on human rights, at the Hyatt Hotel and Casino in Manila.

The Philippines is a founding member of Asean, which includes Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Burma (Myanmar).

This year's workshop will explore the possible inclusion of a provision in the Asean Charter that will enable the creation of such a commission," the conference's Working Group said in a statement.

Addressing the regional audience, Philippine working group chair Wigberto Tañada said efforts to establish a regional human rights commission were entering a "very crucial stage." The meeting is preparatory to the coming 40th Asean Ministerial Meeting which will draft the new Asean Charter.

The Working Group has been holding annual workshops since 2001 and has come up with various recommendations such as the creation of a commission on women and children, the promotion of human rights through education, and the promotion and protection of the rights of migrant workers, among others. *Tarra Quismundo*



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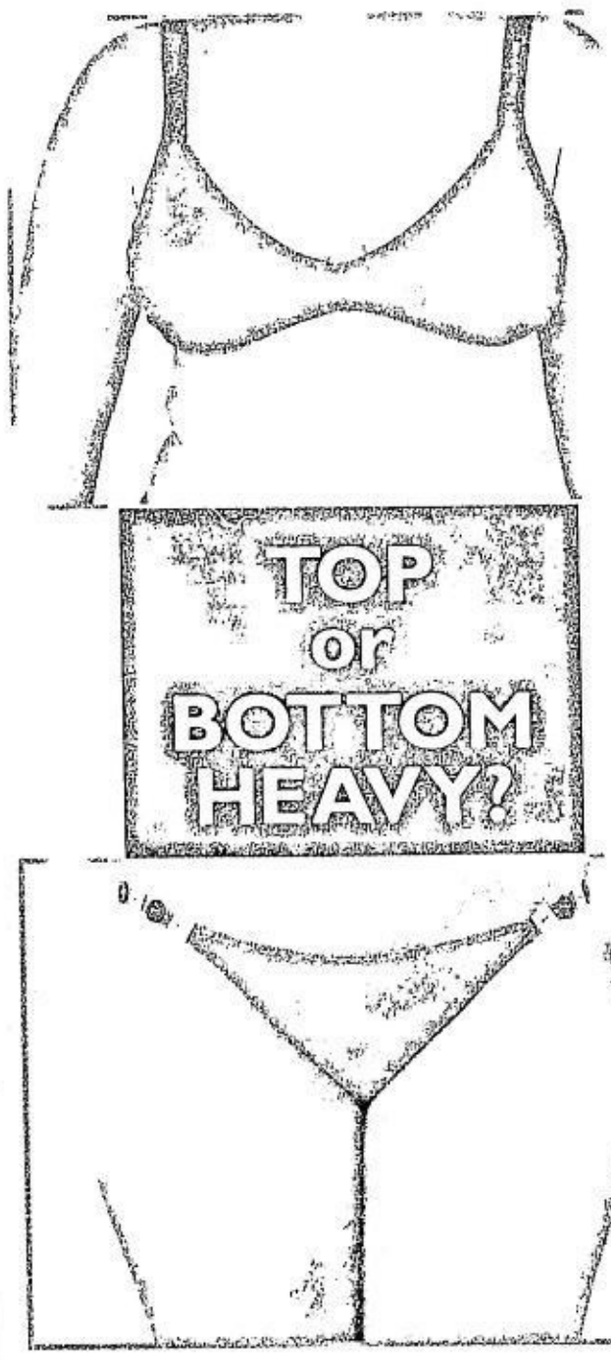

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Asean holds 2-day meet on rights

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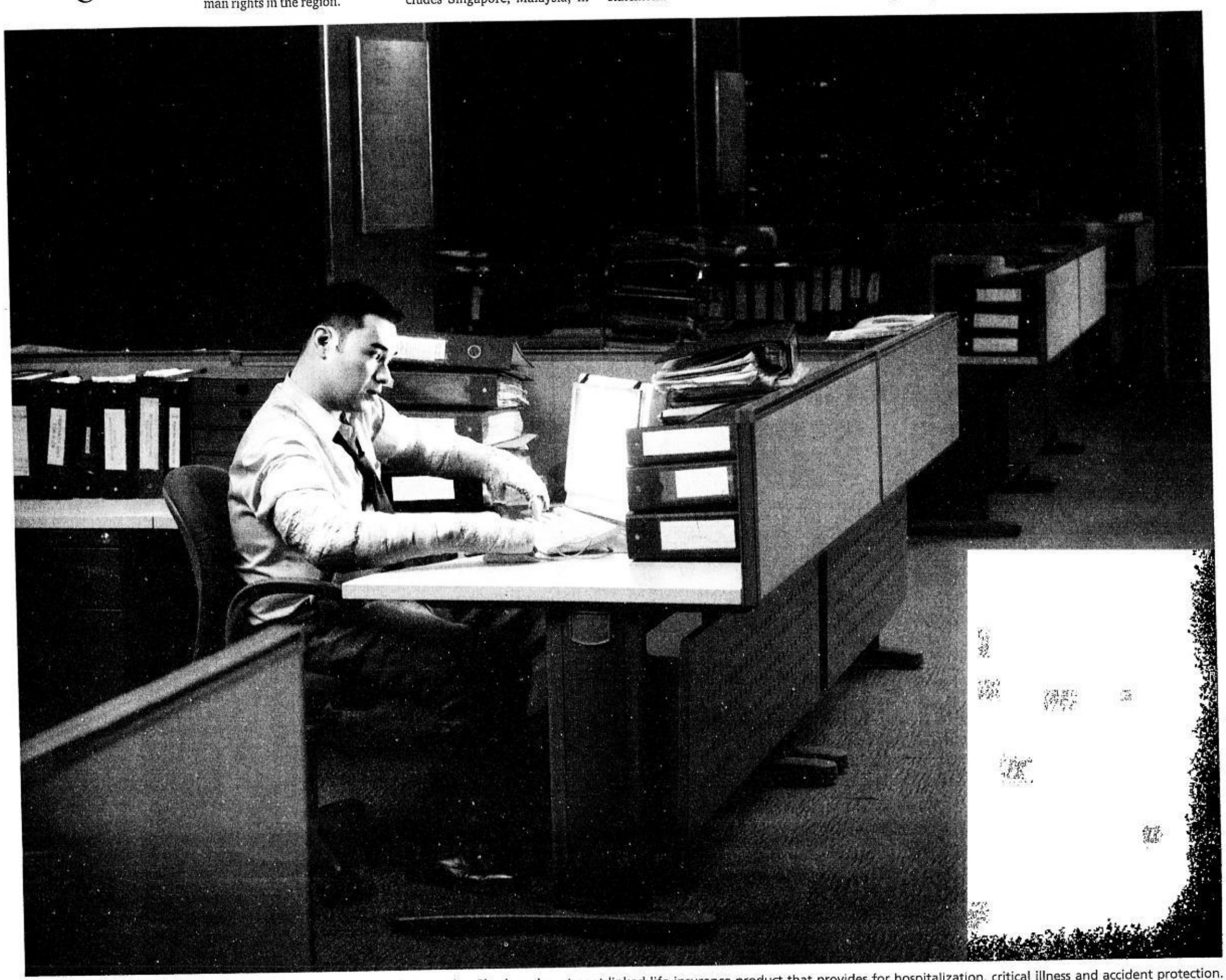

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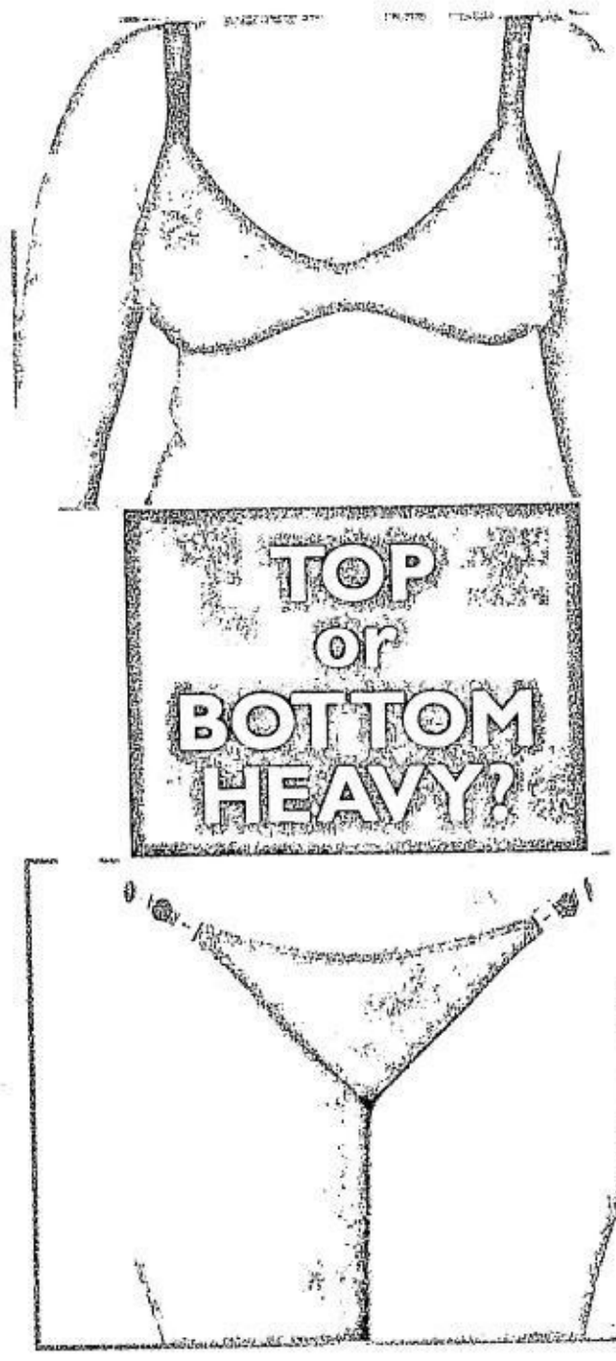

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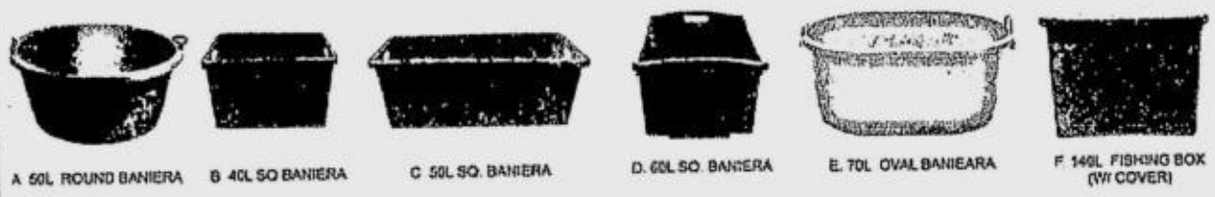

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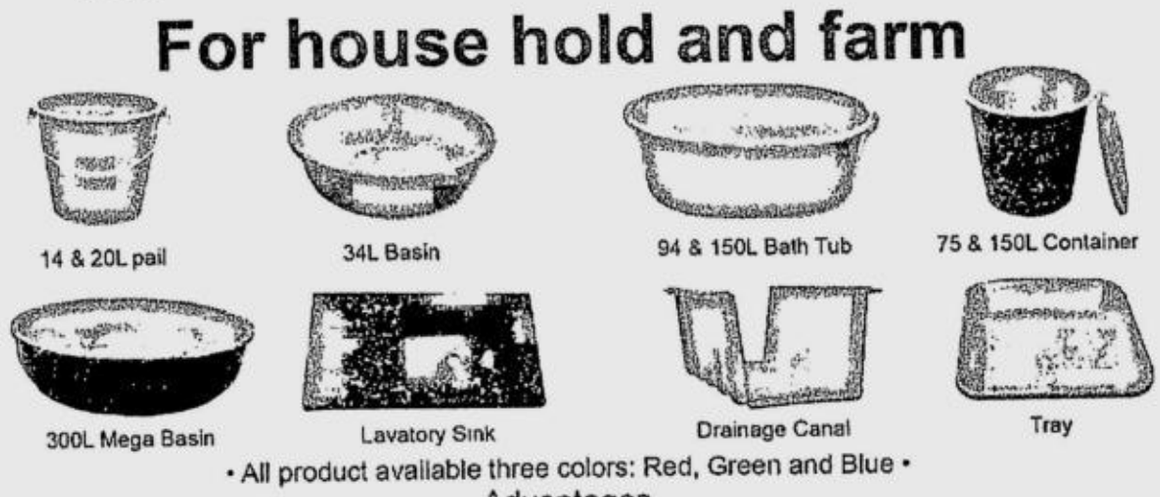

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Garcia proposes new rules in Speaker race

By Norman Bordadora and Christian V. Esguerra

CEBU REP. PABLO GARCIA YESTERDAY PROposed an interim set of rules when the House of Representatives convenes on Monday to elect the new Speaker.

Aside from a rule allowing a secret ballot for the speakership, Garcia proposed that members of the opposition in the House be allowed to elect the minority leader.

Under current House rules, the candidate for Speaker who gets the second highest votes automatically becomes minority leader.

"This rule is something which is intrinsically flawed. The House must adopt an interim set of rules that would empower the minority congressmen to elect the minority leader," Garcia said.

Strongest candidates

Under Garcia's proposal, opposition congressmen would vote for their leader after the speakership vote.

Of the more than 200 members of the House, little more than 30 belong to the opposition.

The two strongest candidates for leadership of the chamber are Pangasinan Rep. Jose de Venecia, the erstwhile Speaker, and Garcia.

De Venecia is a member of majority coalition Lakas-CMD, while Garcia belongs to the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi). Both parties are allied with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Adopting new rules would also correct the anomalous situation of the losing candidate for Speaker becoming minority floor leader," Garcia said, alluding to the alliance.

Allay fears

Garcia made the remarks to allay opposition fears he was contesting the speakership only to finish second and win the minority leader post.

"Speaker De Venecia made a big issue of declining the post of minority leader if he loses. That's an offer that should not have been made by a congressman because that entails violating House rules," Garcia said.

"That is the reason I refused to mouth De Venecia's line about declining the post of minority leader," he said. "That is the reason we have to adopt new rules instead of violating old ones that have become outdated."

Opposition Rep. Rufus Rodriguez of Cagayan de Oro said Sunday the opposition would push for the amendment of the rules during the opening of the 14th Congress on Monday.

Separate elections

He said the opposition lawmakers wanted separate elections for Speaker and minority leader.

De Venecia, meanwhile, signed up another lawmaker to his side.

Palawan Rep. Abraham Khalil Mitra formalized his endorsement by signing the manifesto for De Venecia and endorsing the latter's 12-point economic action program.

"We need Speaker De Venecia's consensus-building leadership. We need continuity in our legislative agenda," Mitra said.

Mitra's vote brings to 184 the number of congressmen who have reportedly pledged to support De Venecia.

Correction

IN THE JULY 10 ISSUE, the drop head of a Page A2 story—"More raps filed vs ex-RSBS head"—misstated the amount of funds allegedly released anomalously by the former president of the Armed Forces' Retirement and Separation Benefits System. The latest charges against the former RSBS president were filed in connection with the release of funds amounting to P85 million—not P85 billion.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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An Open Letter by Amsterdam Holdings, Inc. (AHI)

Just to set the record straight

Amsterdam Holdings, Inc. (AHI) has proposed a national broadband project for the country that is different—and should be set apart—from the one that was proposed by the winning Chinese company ZTE.

In the interest of giving the Filipino people the unburnished information about this proposal—without the political spin and intrigue to which it has been unfairly subjected, AHI endeavors to provide the following:

Fact # 1: AHI submitted its unsolicited proposal to the Department of Transportation and Communications for a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) telecommunications project as a 100-percent private-sector initiative **and a 100-percent private-sector investment.** From the very beginning, **AHI's proposal does not involve, and AHI never asked for, Philippine government equity, loan, guaranty, or subsidy.**

Fact # 2: While AHI's proposal does not require Philippine sovereign risk, ZTE's contract requires a Philippine government loan of US$329-million.

Fact # 3: AHI's proposal only calls for an "executive performance undertaking". This is not "take or pay" but "pay for use", and the government is only obliged to subscribe to the service if AHI lives up to guarantees on price and technology.

Fact # 4: AHI was incorporated for the sole purpose of bidding for the NBN, which is why its paid-in capital is only PhP11.7 million, and the stockholders have an undertaking to increase the capital once the project is awarded to AHI. But paid-in capital is not PhP659,000 as maliciously charged.

Fact # 5: In any case, AHI has a strong foreign technical and financing partner in Hua Wei, the second largest telecommunications manufacturer in the world and the largest in China. Huawei will not risk its reputation by partnering with a mere "mom-and-pop" operation.

Fact # 6: Jose de Venecia III, one of the principal stockholders of AHI, is a self-made man and homegrown entrepreneur who pioneered broadband technology in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia. He has a vision for the convergence of multi-media technologies, as well as the professional passion and company resources, that led him to create the first broadband service provider in the Philippines. Because of his expertise, he is a frequent speaker in major telecommunications conferences in Asia and in the United States. He has made a name for himself in business on the strength of his own accomplishments.

Fact # 7: Despite the evident merits of its proposal—and the fact that it demanded no government equity, guaranty or subsidy—AHI, because of politics and because de Venecia III is one of its stockholders, is being publicly pilloried and attacked. Yet AHI did not win the project; ironically, it is now the subject of a proposed congressional inquiry.

In the meantime, the public is being made to lose sight of the real issue, which is the lack of transparency and accountability in the government procurement process.

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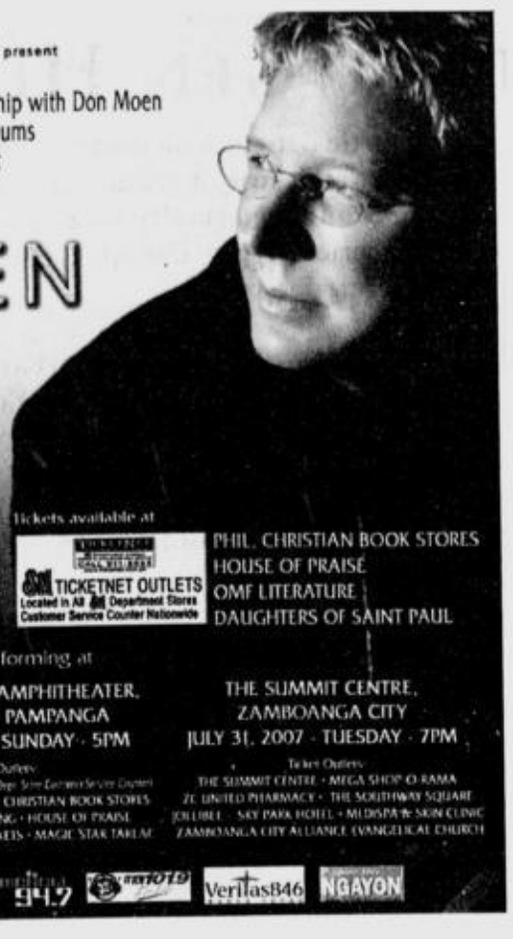

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A6 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2007

GMA satisfaction rating still -3

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S public satisfaction rating for the second quarter remained in the red at -3, more or less what it was in the first quarter of the year, the survey group Social Weather Stations said yesterday.

The survey conducted from June 27 to June 30 attributed this to a widening divide between urban and rural opinion, with Ms Arroyo's ratings dropping in Metro Manila and much of Luzon but rising in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Overall, President Arroyo's second quarter net -3 rating meant only 39 percent said they were satisfied and 42 percent said they were dissatisfied with her performance.

This rating was "nearly identical" with the President's net -4 rating (39 percent satisfied, 43 percent dissatisfied) in February this year, the SWS report added.

In Metro Manila, it dropped from net -24 in February to net -31 in June, and worsened slightly in Luzon, from net -2 in February to net -6 in June.

On the other hand, the President's satisfaction rating was highest in the Visayas, where it improved from net +1 to net +10. In Mindanao, it improved from net zero to net +8.

SWS noted that the difference between the President's rating in Metro Manila and the Visayas was 41 points.

Urban areas tend to be dissatisfied with the President, as rural areas tend to be satisfied, the SWS survey showed.

The President's rating in urban areas worsened from net -8 in February to net -12 in June, while her rural net rating improved from net +1 to net +8.

"The urban-rural divide grew to 20 points in June, from only 9 points in February," SWS said.

Across socioeconomic classes, dissatisfaction with President Arroyo has tended to be greatest in the very poor Class E, but her net ratings improved from net -8 in February to net zero in June.

Her ratings, however, declined slightly among the middle-to-upper classes ABC, from net +7 to net +4, as well as among the *masa* or Class D, from net -3 to net -5.

According to SWS, Class D includes lower-middle class households who basically thrive on a "hand-to-mouth existence" while Class E or the "extremely lower class" includes those who "evidently face great difficulties in meeting their basic survival needs."

Upper and middle classes ABC, on the other hand, include households whose homes and lifestyles reflect "comfortable living."

The findings were part of the Second Quarter of 2007 Social Weather Survey, which used face-to-face interviews of 1,200 adults divided into random samples of 300 each in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. It had a margin of error of plus-or-minus 3 percentage points.

Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

Party-lists take rule fight to high tribunal

By Leila B. Salaverria and Christian V. Esguerra

FOUR SECTORAL GROUPS YESterday asked the Supreme Court to strike down the First Party Rule that allows only the first placer in the party-list electoral contest to claim the maximum three seats for their sector.

The petitioners—Bayan Muna, A Teacher, Batas and Abono—also asked the high tribunal to declare unconstitutional the three-seat limit for sectoral representatives in Congress, and to direct the Commission on Elections to fill up the 20-percent allocation for party-list seats in Congress.

The four party-list groups want the high court to adopt a new formula whereby party-list groups could get more than three seats, and the number they would get would depend directly on how many votes they garnered.

Under the First Party Rule formula, spelled out in the high court's 2000 ruling in the case of Veterans Federation Inc. and penned by Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban, only one seat is allocated for each group that gains at least two percent of the total party-list votes. Any additional seats would then be determined by dividing the number of votes of a party-list group by the number of votes of the first party, and multiplying this by the number of additional seats of the first party. The law also imposes a three-seat cap.

The petitioners argued that the three-seat cap was unconstitutional because it violated the principle of proportional representation.

They also said the 20-percent allocation of seats for party-list representatives should be filled, adding that it was a mandatory requirement that one-fourth of Congress must represent the marginalized and underrepresented.

According to the party-list groups, nullifying the three-seat cap and not treating the 20-percent allocation as a mere ceiling would result in the nullification of the First Party Rule, which deprives marginalized sectors of proper representation in Congress, a violation of the Constitutional intent in the party-list system.

Meanwhile, party-list groups that failed to make the cut in the last election have joined forces to seek the disqualification of two winning organizations for being "fronts for religious organizations."

Mike Atil, consultant of the Coalition of Associations of Senior Citizens in the Philippines, said his group and several other losing party-list organizations were planning to question the legitimacy of Buhay, the topnotcher in the May party-list election, and Cibac, which placed third.

Atil charged that Buhay and Cibac had no place in the party-list system, which promotes sectoral representation.

Buhay is identified with the lay Catholic group El Shaddai, and Cibac with the Jesus Is Lord Movement of Bro. Eddie Villanueva.

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Zero tariffs para sa dayuhang kalakal? Trabaho at negosyo para sa ibang bayan?

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

Madame President:

In the past, you not only championed the nurturing and strengthening of our industrial base. **You even took the unprecedented bold move of temporarily freezing tariffs.** However, some of your technocrats maybe straying from your vision. **We therefore bring this matter to your attention,** so that the Philippines may not appear to be an aberration in Asia.

By lowering our tariffs ahead of other Asian countries and yet failing to provide our local producers a competitive enabling environment (cheaper energy and utilities, quality infrastructures, friendly business rules, credit access, etc.), some of our own government officials have managed to stop our industrial and agricultural sectors from growing in the last three decades! In this period, the Philippines was overtaken and left behind in the growth process by our Asian neighbors. Even Vietnam is about to overtake us

And yet amazingly, some of our economic technocrats are bent on pushing the country to the extreme edge of the disastrous program of unilateral and one-sided economic liberalization. They want our industrial tariffs, at an average of five (5) per cent and already the lowest in Asia with the notable exception of Singapore (whose industry enjoys heavy government assistance) and Japan (which maintains a labyrinthian system of non-tariff protection), to even go down to zero! This despite the fact that our government is facing a severe fiscal shortfall – with the Bureau of Customs unable to meet its targets because of our low tariff rates and widespread smuggling, and our Bureau of Internal Revenue unable to collect more taxes from a shrinking domestic industrial sector. **This illogical move to go zero tariff shall reduce the government's revenue and weaken further our domestic industrial and agricultural producers!**

For example, the domestic cement industry is now able to survive the existing five per cent tariff, which is unfairly low compared to the 50 per cent tariff imposed by Malaysia, 40 per cent by Vietnam, and 10 per cent by Thailand (which maintains zero-cement import policy).

If our zero-minded tariff officials would have their way, the Philippine cement industry is likely to collapse. To justify the zero move, they have been raising specious arguments. First, they claim there is no competition. But at five per cent tariff, any importer can easily bring in imports. There are already seven domestic producers, some of whom are engaged in limited importations. Second, they claim that domestic cement prices are unfairly high. And yet, benchmarked with those prevailing in Asia, **Philippine cement prices are at the middle-level range, lower than India's but higher than those in Indonesia and Vietnam, which have a much lower energy costs, the main determinant of cement production cost.** In addition, cement price increases **have been lower than inflation** over the last ten years. Third, they say that the Philippine cement industry is now dominated by foreigners. But were these foreign investors not allowed to come in precisely to save the industry from total collapse, in the aftermath of the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis? The development challenge is how to encourage these investors, who are currently getting rates of return even below the cost of capital, **to continue modernizing and sustaining the domestic cement industry under a fair and balanced system of competition.** But changing the rules of the game in midstream and exposing these investors to unfair trade rules directly contradict the government's campaign for foreign investments.

Madame President, if an industry as capital-intensive as the cement industry can not survive this zero-tariff assault, how can the other domestic industries and agriculture withstand the pressure for the country to go zero-tariff?

Such blind unilateral liberalization measures constitute, in the words of Justice Florentino Feliciano (former WTO Dispute Settlement Presiding Judge), 'unilateral disarmament'. The problem is that **what these zero-tariff technocrats are disarming is a nation and its capacity to attain your vision of achieving developed industry status by 2020 or beyond.** For without a solid and strong industrial base, no nation can aspire to become a First World country.

Mahal na Pangulo, hinihiling naming: irepaso at baguhin ang ating mga patakaran sa kalakalan. Bigyan ng pantay na pagkakataon ang sarili nating industriya at agrikultura na makasabay sa karera sa daigdig ng kompetisyon sa ilalim ng makatarungan at makatwirang mga patakaran sa taripa at kalakalan!

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PEACE-LOVING PINOYS. Filipino soldiers wearing UN peacekeepers' blue beret salute during sendoff ceremonies before they left for Haiti and Liberia yesterday. The Armed Forces of the Philippines will deploy 325 soldiers as part of its commitment to the United Nations. AFP PHOTO

Hero-soldier killed by 'friendly fire'

By Christine O. Avendaño

IT WAS A MOCK AMBUSH TRAIning that went horribly wrong for this elite Army soldier who was responsible for killing Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Solaiman early this year.

Sgt. Raul Suacillo, of the Army's 5th Special Forces Company, was killed on July 3 when a bullet fired at him during training at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija turned out to be a live round.

The military last week gave 34-year-old Suacillo a "hero's burial" at the Libingan ng Bayani at Fort Bonifacio with his wife and parents present.

Army Special Forces chief Brig. Gen. Arturo Ortiz said yesterday a formal investigation of the incident was being conducted by the Army Inspector General.

An Army corporal who took part in the training admitted firing at Suacillo without realizing the bullets he was using were live, not blanks.

According to Ortiz, Suacillo had taken part in a practical exercise dealing with a "hasty ambush" together with 11 members of the tactical team.

During the exercise held in the camp's reservation area, Suacillo, playing an "aggressor," was "hit" and he fell.

Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres, quoting Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., operations officer of the Special Forces Regiment, said Suacillo was still able to talk, telling his colleagues they shouldn't have used live ammunition.

"*Huwag kayong gagamit ng* live (Don't use 'live')," Suacillo said.

Seeing blood oozing out of Suacillo, the training was stopped and he was rushed to the camp hospital where he was declared dead on arrival.

"(It turned out Suacillo) was fatally hit by an M-16 bullet that went through his right arm, then penetrated his heart before it got stuck and embedded inside his body," Ortiz said.

Ortiz said Cpl. Edgar Caban "admitted the live bullet came from him."

"(Caban) afterwards explained that he accidentally inserted a magazine with live bullets that was issued to them before they jumped off for the exercise," Ortiz said.

Torres said the teams that participated in the exercise were issued both blank and live ammunition. The live rounds were issued in case they would be needed at the training site.

He said what happened was an "unfortunate accident," adding that Suacillo was a well-liked soldier.

Caban is detained at the Fort Magsaysay stockade.

Suacillo was part of the Special Forces team that attacked the Abu Sayyaf camp on Mount Dajo in Talipao, Sulu, on Jan. 16.

He shot Solaiman who was unaware Army soldiers had entered his camp.

Solaiman, who carried a $5-million bounty offered by the United States, was wanted for the SuperFerry bombing in 2003 and the kidnapping of foreigners from a Palawan resort in 2001.

For the deed, Suacillo was awarded an interim Gold Cross Medal, the third highest combat award.

Cyber crimes law needed, say cops

THE COUNTRY NEEDS LAWS TO fight online child pornography, local and international law enforcers said yesterday.

Chief Supt. Yolanda Tanigue of the Women and Child Division of the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management (DIDM) told reporters that last year, their unit investigated several cases of online child porn but they could not file charges against the offenders.

"There is no law specifically against cyber crimes. There is a small mention in Republic Act 9208 (Anti-Trafficking of Women and Children Law)," she said.

Chief Supt. Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza of the DIDM said there was an upsurge in child pornography in the country.

He did not give any statistics but said investigation showed that child pornography proliferated in "subdivisions, condominiums, middle-class communities and even slum areas."

Yesterday, Mendoza and Tanigue opened a four-day international program at the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP) for law enforcers to address child exploitation on the Internet.

Participants included representatives from the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC), Interpol, the US Embassy and Microsoft Phils. *Alcuin Papa*

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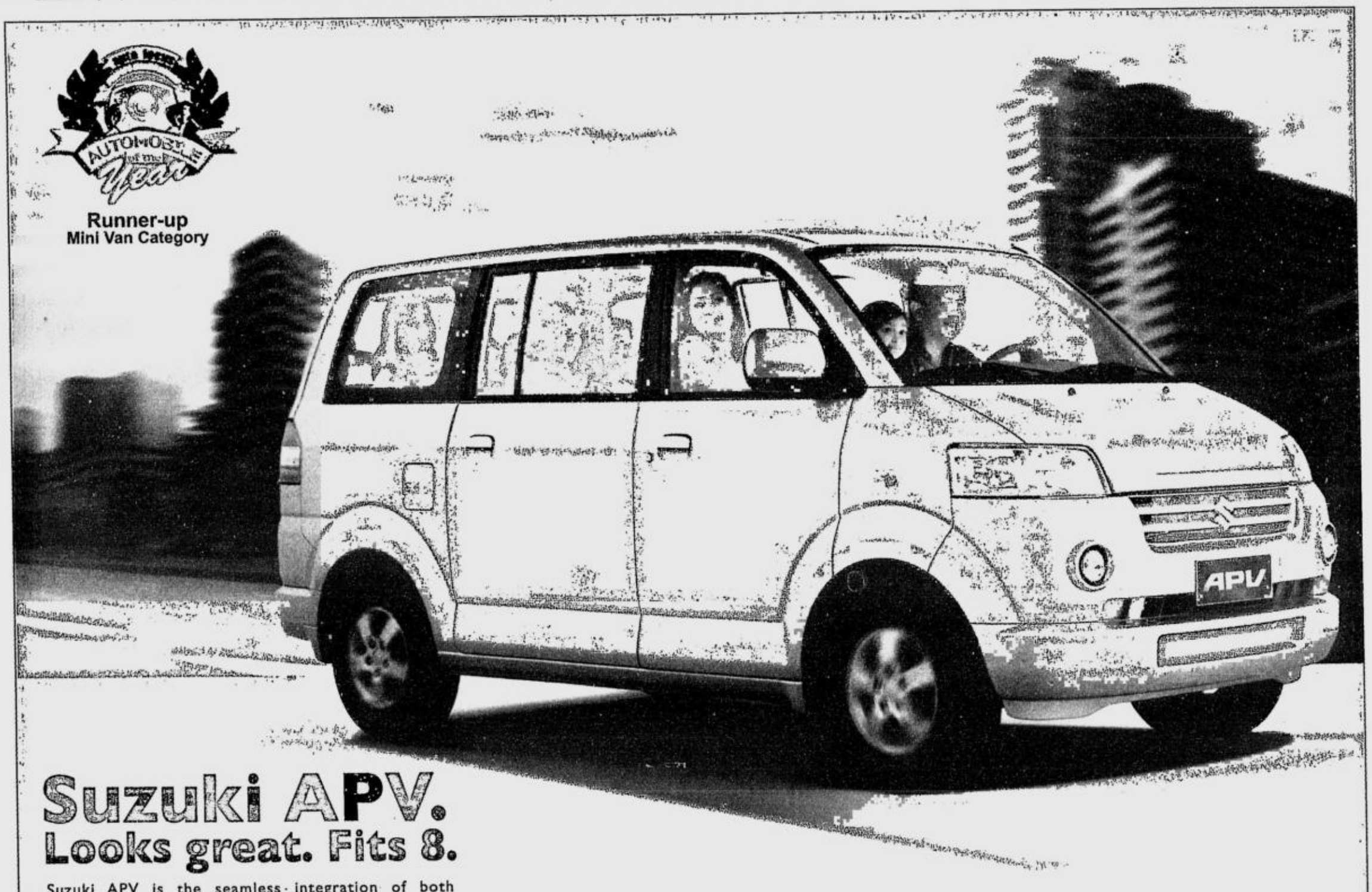

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MILF won't surrender rebels behind beheading of Marines

From page A1

Kabalu said the Commission on Human Rights and Malaysian-led ceasefire monitors should investigate the attack, and added that their own investigation showed no rebels were involved in the beheadings.

Imam killed

The MILF suspects the beheadings may have been done by angry relatives of a Muslim imam, or preacher, who was found shot and hacked to death at the battle scene.

The imam was allegedly last seen alive by villagers in the Marines' company, Kabalu said.

He said hundreds of armed MILF men on Basilan had taken a defensive position due to possible military attacks.

Marine spokesperson Lt. Col. Ariel Caculitan strongly denied the Marines killed the preacher and accused the rebels of looking for a scapegoat to deflect criticisms.

He stressed the Marines were attacked while peacefully returning to camp as documented by a TV crew which was with them, he said.

"All-out war is one of the alternatives, but it could be the last resort," Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon warned, hinting at pinpoint surgical strikes on those responsible for the killings.

"As much as possible we want to conduct operations that are intelligence-driven ... We do not want to be indiscriminate about this because (the area) is densely populated," Esperon told reporters.

He said since the rebels admitted they were behind the ambush, "they must now bring out the offenders ... who beheaded our Marines."

Survivors of the July 10 ambush said the attack was apparently well-planned.

Attackers were young men

Cpl. Marvin Gualon of the 38th Marine Company and Pfc. John Moneth Daniel of the 28th Marine Company also said the attackers were young and that many of them were expert snipers.

Daniel, 24, said it was about 9 a.m. when the 38th Marine Company, the convoy's tail end security, received a radio call to disperse after the military truck they were riding got stuck in the mud.

Daniel said some soldiers tried to pull the truck out of the mud while others positioned themselves 10-20 meters away to provide security.

He said that Sgt. Bernard Abes, their most senior officer, had ordered the soldiers to go by twos and reposition themselves when they heard gunfire.

Gualon said the gunners, Sgt. Gerardo Licup and Abes, were already directing them to seek safer positions. When Licup was about to stand up, an M-203 grenade exploded, injuring him.

A single sniper shot later rang out and hit Licup, killing him instantly.

The firing became intense, sending the Marines scampering for safety, Daniel said, adding that during the heavy firing, he was hit in the buttocks.

Besides adopting a U position, which is an effective assault tactic, the attackers also enjoyed the advantage of firing from high ground.

Gualon and Daniel said more than 20 gunmen, aged from 16 to 30, appeared and took control of the stalled truck.

Daniel said one soldier was hit when a portion of his knee protruded from behind a tree.

"When our spotters tried to peek through the small openings of the tank, they were immediately fired upon. The bullets from the enemies would always enter the openings," said Sgt. Christopher Villarin, a gunner.

Feeling they were being overpowered, the survivors said Abes gave an order to find those who were wounded and evacuate them. They said Abes also made it clear that their dead comrades should be retrieved.

Daniel said he saw Abes crawling toward the other members of the team and tried to find out who were safe, injured or dead.

After retrieving both the wounded and slain soldiers, Daniel said Abes directed his group to follow their tank, telling them, "I will get the others first."

It was the last time they saw Abes alive.

"He was the type of person who will never leave his men behind," Daniel said.

An alibi

At Fort Bonifacio, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday attended the wake of the slain soldiers and comforted their families.

Esperon dismissed MILF claims that the Marines should have coordinated with the guerrillas before entering a supposed MILF area.

Esperon said Basilan was "not a recognized MILF territory."

Asked whether it was true that the military provoked the ambush after allegedly killing an imam, Esperon said he would leave that for the investigators to determine.

"They (MILF) will say that, they can give that as an alibi but that might not be the result of the investigation," he said.

But AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Antonio Romero told reporters in a separate interview that the military was also looking into the "actions of our people, our commanders on the ground" to find out what really happened.

Plea for justice

"Were they the ones who really triggered the fighting, or *sila ba talaga ang inunahan* (were they fired upon first), " Romero said.

Regarding the death of an imam on the day of the ambush, Romero said: "We are also looking into that angle but we do not know if these are connected to each other. So we have to investigate."

In Cebu, the family of slain Marine Private 1st Class Reuben Doronio Jr., one of those beheaded, sought justice for his death.

Marine M/Sgt. Renante Encabo said that Doronio's mother "could not accept it because there was treachery in his death."

"She wants an all-out-war to be launched against those groups. She wants justice," said Doronio.

Doronio's mother, wife and some relatives received his remains at the Mactan Ebuen Airbase in Lapu-Lapu City yesterday.

Reports from Christine O. Avendaño in Manila, Julie Alipala Inquirer Mindanao, and Jolene R. Bulambot and Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas

Senators score weak AFP intelligence

SENATORS YESTERDAY TOOK the Armed Forces of the Philippines to task for its weak intelligence capability and delayed modernization program that has put at risk the soldiers in the battlefront.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said the military may not only have had a weapons malfunction during last Tuesday's fighting on Basilan, but may have also suffered from an intelligence breakdown.

Biazon said that with the billions of pesos spent for military intelligence, the Basilan troops should have been more prepared when they entered enemy territory.

Biazon noted that the military had sent between 70 and 80 intelligence agents to Basilan.

"Where are their intelligence reports for the area? They should have at least estimated the size of the rebel force in the area," he said.

Sen. Manuel Villar said part of the blame for the Basilan ambush was the failure of the AFP to fully implement Republic Act No. 9184 on military modernization.

"The unnecessary deaths of our soldiers in the field will be avoided if we will be able to provide our armed forces more modern equipment that will improve our soldiers' detection and defensive capabilities," said Villar.

With P5 billion allocated for AFP modernization in the 2007 budget, Villar said the military should be able to purchase high-quality weapons and ammunition. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

LA cardinal apologizes to sex abuse victims

From page A1

I cannot," Mahony said.

"Once again, I apologize to anyone who has been offended, who has been abused. It should not have happened, and it will not happen again."

Mahony said that he had met in the past 14 months with dozens of people alleging clergy abuse and that those meetings had helped him understand the importance of a quick resolution to the lawsuits.

The settlement will not affect the archdiocese's core ministry but the Church will have to sell buildings, use some of its invested funds and borrow money. The archdiocese will not sell any parish property, he said.

Terms of settlement

The deal between the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles and more than 500 alleged victims of clergy sexual abuse reached late Saturday is by far the largest payout since the nationwide clergy abuse scandal emerged in 2002 in Boston.

The settlement also calls for the release of priests' confidential personnel files after review by a judge. According to Tod Tamberg, spokesperson for the archdiocese, the settlement had not required Mahony to make his public apology.

Earlier Sunday, Mahony presided over Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in downtown Los Angeles without directly addressing the settlement. The service did include a prayer for victims of clergy abuse.

Mahony and all parties are expected before a Los Angeles Superior Court judge on Monday to enter the settlement into the court record.

"I think for those of us who have been involved in this for more than five years, it's a huge relief," said archdiocese attorney Michael Hennigan. "But it's a disappointment too that we didn't get it done much earlier than this."

CARDINAL Mahony: Mea culpa, mea maxima culpa.

Disappointment, relief

Parishioners reacted with disappointment and relief to the settlement.

Vivian Viscarra, 50, who attends Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels three times a month, said the victims deserved the payout even though it could hurt the Church's ability to deliver important services.

The amount would average a little more than $1.3 million per plaintiff, although individual payouts will vary according to the severity and duration of the abuse.

"I am disappointed," Viscarra said. "And it's making me reevaluate my views of whether people in the ministry should be married. People do have needs."

Chris Parra, who attends Mass every Sunday, said she could not help thinking about the settlement when she shook Mahony's hand on the way out of the cathedral.

"Even when I was standing there, shaking his hand, I was thinking about how he's finally going to release the priests' personnel records and I wondered to myself why didn't he do that sooner," she said, holding her baby, Tomas.

Parra said she was upset that her tithing would go toward paying the settlement.

508 remaining cases

"I still want my children to follow the Church's guidelines and foundation because that's how I was raised," she said. "But there's still a lot of healing to be done."

The deal settles all 508 cases that remained against the archdiocese, which also paid $60 million last December to settle 45 cases that weren't covered by sexual abuse insurance.

Under the latest deal, the archdiocese will pay $250 million, insurance carriers will pay a combined $227 million and several religious orders will chip in $60 million. The remaining $123 million will come from litigation with religious orders that chose not to participate in the deal, with the archdiocese guaranteeing resolution of those 80 to 100 cases within five years.

Standing outside the cathedral, Mary Grant, spokesperson for Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests, said the settlement did not end suffering for the thousands of victims of clergy abuse.

"This is not over," she said. "Church officials would like to think that this settlement means everything is OK... But this is not a magic wand."

The settlements push the total amount paid out by the US church since 1950 to more than $2 billion, with about a quarter of that coming from the Los Angeles archdiocese. A judge must sign off on the agreement.

The Los Angeles archdiocese, its insurers and various Roman Catholic orders have paid more than $114 million to settle 86 claims so far.

Several religious orders in California have also reached multimillion-dollar settlements in recent months, including the Carmelites, the Franciscans and the Jesuits. *AP*

If US is richest country, why isn't it the tallest?

From page A1

World War II and gradually fell behind the rest of the world.

By the time the baby boomers reached adulthood in the 1960s, most northern and western European countries had caught up with and surpassed the United States. Young adults in Japan and other prosperous Asian countries now stand nearly as tall as Americans do.

Even residents of the formerly communist East Germany are taller than Americans today. In Holland, the tallest country in the world, the typical man now measures 1.83 meters (6 feet), a good 5 centimeters (2 inches) more than his American counterpart.

Compare that to 1850 when the situation was reversed. Not just the Dutch but all the nations of western Europe stood 6.4 cm (2½ in) shorter than their American brethren.

Does it really matter? Does being taller give the Dutch any advantage over say, the Chinese (men 1.65 m or 5 ft, 4.9 in; women 1.54 m or 5 ft, 0.8 in) or the Brazilians (men 1.69 m or 5 ft, 6.5 in; women 1.6 m or 5 ft, 3 in)?

Height matters

Many economists would argue that it does matter, because height is correlated with numerous measures of a population's well-being.

Tall people are healthier, wealthier and live longer than short people. Some researchers have even suggested that tall people are more intelligent.

It's not that being tall actually makes you smarter, richer or healthier. It's that the same things that make you tall—a nutritious diet, good prenatal care and a healthy childhood—also benefit you in those other ways.

"This is the part of the society that usually eludes economists, because economists are usually thinking about income. And this is the part of the society that doesn't earn an income," said John Komlos, an economic historian who has spent the last 25 years compiling data on the heights of nations.

In other words, height tells you about a segment of the population that is invisible to traditional economic statistics. Children don't have jobs or own houses. They don't buy durable goods, or invest in the stock market.

But obviously, investments in children's well-being are critical to a nation's economic future.

For several years now, Komlos and other researchers have been trying to figure out exactly why the United States fell behind. How could the wealthiest country in the world, during the most robust economic expansion in its history, simply stop growing?

Mix of genes, environment

Like many human traits, the height of an individual is determined by a mix of genes and environment. Some experts put the contribution of genes at 40 percent, some at 70 percent, some even higher.

But the experts all agree that aside from African pygmies and a few similar exceptions, most populations have about the same genetic potential for height.

That leaves environment to determine the differences in height between populations around the world, specifically the environment that children experience from the moment of conception through adolescence.

Any deficiency along the way, from poor prenatal care to early childhood disease or malnutrition, can prevent a person from reaching his or her full genetic height potential.

"We know environment can affect heights by three, four, five inches (7.6 cm, 10 cm, 12.7 cm)," said Richard H. Steckel, an Ohio State University economist who has done research on height trends in the United States during the 19th century.

The earliest stages of life are the most important to the human growth machine. At age 2, there is already about a 70-percent correlation between a child's height and his or her eventual adult stature.

Richer, taller

All of this means the average height in a given population is a very sensitive indicator of the welfare of its most vulnerable members.

Not surprisingly, rich countries tend to be taller simply because they have more resources to spend on feeding and caring for their children. But wealth doesn't necessarily guarantee that a society will give its children what they need to thrive.

In the Czech Republic, per capita income is barely half of what it is in the United States. Even so, Czechs are taller than Americans. So are Belgians, who collect only 84 percent as much income as Americans.

And those height differences translate into real benefits. A number of studies have shown that disease and malnutrition early in life—the same things that limit a person's height—increase a person's chances of developing heart disease and other life-shortening conditions later on. Although tall people are more likely to get cancer, they suffer less mortality overall than short people.

International statistics bear it out. Life expectancy in the Netherlands is 79.11 years; in Sweden it's 80.63. America's life expectancy of 78.00 years puts it in somewhat shorter company—just above Cyprus and a few notches below Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Obviously America is not doing badly. It's not at the level of developing nations," Komlos said. "But it's also not doing as well as it could."

Poor diet

Komlos' latest research paper, published in the June issue of Social Science Quarterly, suggests the blame may lie with America's poor diet and its expensive, inequitable health care system.

"American children might consume more meals prepared outside of the home, more fast food rich in fat, high in energy density and low in essential micronutrients," wrote Komlos and coauthor Benjamin E. Lauderdale of Princeton University.

"Furthermore, the European welfare states provide a more comprehensive social safety net including universal health care coverage," they added.

By comparison, an estimated 9 million children have no health insurance in the United States.

Komlos' most recent data indicate a small uptick in the heights of white Americans born between 1975 and 1983, a suggestion that the gap may finally be closing.

But there has been no similar increase among blacks, a suggestion that inequality may indeed play a significant role in the height gap.

In another recent paper, Komlos and Lauderdale also found height inequality between American urbanites and residents of suburbs and rural areas. In Kansas, for example, white males are about as tall as their European peers; it's big cities like New York, where men are about 4.45 cm (1.75 in) shorter than that, that drag America's average down.

Prenatal care

Now Komlos has started comparing the heights of children to determine at what age Americans begin falling behind their peers across the Atlantic. Not surprisingly, he sees a difference from birth, an observation that suggests prenatal care may be significant contributor factor to the height gap.

But it is unlikely that Komlos will ever find one simple factor to explain why Americans have fallen behind other rich countries in height. In all likelihood it is caused by a combination of things—a little bit health care, some diet, a sprinkling of economic inequality.

"In some ways, it gets to the fundamentals of the American society, namely what is the ideology of the American society and what are the shortcomings of that ideology," Komlos said. "I would argue that to take good care of its children is not part of that ideology."

Whether that's true is debatable; the height gap doesn't measure how much Americans love their children. But at a minimum it does indicate—in raw meters (feet) and centimeters (inches)—whether the nation is giving its youngsters what they need to reach their full biological potential, or selling them short. *AP*

The Netherlands reach new heights

The average height of white and black Americans has risen at a slower pace compared to other industrialized nations over numerous generations

Average height of men in select countries

* Slave population in 1860

NOTE: U.S. data compares only white non-Hispanics and blacks to minimize the inclusion of people who were born and/or spent their growing years in another country

SOURCE: John Komlos, economic historian, University of Munich AP

GMA: Better education will be my legacy

By Michael Lim Ubac

STRESSING THAT "knowledge is the greatest creator of wealth," President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday vowed to leave a legacy of better education to the younger generation.

Speaking before officials of private companies at the opening of Corporate Social Responsibility Expo 2007, the President said she would propose to Congress an increase in the education budget of P29 billion, up from this year's P121 billion to P150 billion in 2008.

"Our administration has spent more on human capital formation than any other in the past. Why? Because if the government of the people and by the people is not for them as well, it is a mockery of democracy," she said, kicking off the three-day expo at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel.

The League of Corporate Foundations organized the expo, an annual celebration of ideas, programs and best practices in business and social development. The plenary sessions would be discuss ways to encourage the private sector to invest in education as a response to reversing the education crisis.

Ms Arroyo witnessed the ceremonial signing of the memorandum of understanding on the CSR Education Roadmap entitled, "Towards Making Education a National Priority Between the Private Sector and Government."

The President, who will address the joint session of Congress on Monday, vowed to devote the remainder of her term to wipe out poverty through increased investment in physical, intellectual, legal and security infrastructure.

She emphasized the importance of education "as a strategic and sustainable solution to poverty."

"The next three years will see an unprecedented, well-thought out and firm commitment of unstinting effort and generous funding for better schools, higher teacher pay, more scholarships for gifted students and better English language training," she said.

The President also assured students of "quality textbooks" amid the continued failure of the Department of Education to cleanse textbooks of grammatical, syntactical and historical errors, aside from dismantling the textbook cartel in the DepEd.

She also listed the government's achievements in the education sector—the administration built 15,000 classrooms, procured 12 million textbooks and teachers' manuals, hired 40,000 new teachers, set up a regionalized payroll system that cut the process to 30 days, and increased high school scholarships from 50,00 to 240,000.

"Today, I launch a P4-billion fund for student loans, business-funded training, and state universities and colleges expansion under the CHEd (Commission on Higher Education), increasing beneficiaries of student loans from 40,000 last year to 200,000 this year," Ms Arroyo said.

Cops to ask Lim not to open bridge

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE SAID YESterday it would ask Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim to reconsider his decision opening Don Chino Roces Bridge (Mendiola Bridge) to demonstrators.

In a phone interview, PNP Director General Oscar Calderon said he would submit a formal letter to Lim soon.

"We will seek reconsideration not to include Mendiola (on the list of approved rally sites)," Calderon said.

He said Mendiola was a "very sensitive and very critical" area since it was the site of several schools and led to Malacañang, the official residence of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Classes and work will be disturbed. It is for the safety of the residents of the area and it is also near the seat of power," Calderon said.

He said militant groups had other venues to protest at like Liwasang Bonifacio.

"*Kung saan kasi bawal doon nila mas gusto* (They like to protest where it's prohibited). We gave them an area, *makisama naman sila* (they should cooperate)," Calderon said.

Calderon and Lim are also expected to tackle the issue of a new Manila Police District (MPD) chief.

When he won the mayoralty in May, Lim vowed to open Mendiola Bridge to protesters after it was deemed off limits during the term of Mayor Lito Atienza.

But Lim later modified his promise and allowed rallies on Mendiola only on weekends and holidays. *Alcuin Papa*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, July 17, 2007
15th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ex 2:1-15
Gospel: Matthew 11:20-24

Jesus began to denounce the cities in which he had performed most of his miracles, because the people there did not change their ways, "Alas for you Chorazin and Bethsaida! If the miracles worked in you had taken place in Tyre and Sidon, the people there would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I assure you, for Tyre and Sidon it will be more bearable on the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to heaven? You will be thrown down to the place of the dead! For if the miracles which were performed in you had taken place in Sodom, it would still be there today! But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."

Commentary

A child is born, and hidden for three months, then his sister puts him in a basket and floats him down river for the Pharaoh's daughter to find. As the child is found, the sister makes sure that the child's own mother becomes the wet nurse of the baby. He is Moses—drawn from the waters. Moses grows up and sees the slavery of his own people and witnesses one of the Egyptians striking a slave. He reacts in anger and kills him and buries him in the sand. He then tries to stop two of his own people from fighting and they reject him, revealing that they know that he has killed an Egyptian. Moses flees from Egypt and he settles in the land of Midian. This is a short rendering of the birth of the liberator and the lawgiver of Israel who will fulfill the promises of God.

Jesus goes from town to town, preaching repentance, change, transformation of life. And some do not listen at all. He reproaches them for refusing to obey his words. Today, if Jesus visited our town/city would we hear reproaches for refusing to be converted, after having been given so much?

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The HOTEL INSTITUTE MONTREUX (HIM) Ad that came out last July 16, Monday had errors in the contact numbers and its Manila seminar venue.
The correct phone numbers and venue should be:
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2007

ISSN 0116-2642

INQUIRER

Vol. 22 No. 219

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/opinion

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000

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A scary law

EDITORIAL

THE EXECUTIVE AND THE JUDICIAL BRANCHES would do well to heed the call of militants to defer the enforcement of the Human Security Act to give time for its vague provisions to be clarified and for additional safeguards to be adopted to protect civil rights and prevent its use to quell dissent against the Arroyo administration.

Leftist militants have said that they would file a case challenging the legality of the law before the Supreme Court. They will also seek a temporary restraining order to suspend its enforcement. We hope that the Court will grant their petition. The Human Security Act is a scary law. Its enforcement could be twisted to serve the political ends of the enforcers. Given the records of the principal enforcers—Acting Defense Secretary Norberto Gonzales, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and President Macapagal-Arroyo—there is reason to be afraid that abuses would be committed in its enforcement.

The suspension of the enforcement of the law would give everybody time to reexamine its provisions and provide for safeguards that would ensure the security of innocent people and not increase their fears and heighten their feeling of insecurity.

To begin with, the definition of "terrorism" is vague: "sowing and creating widespread and extraordinary fear and panic among the populace." Who will say that a certain person or group of persons is doing this?

The Arroyo administration and its enforcers are given too much leeway in implementing the antiterror law. Administration officials said the act does not require the government to draw up implementing rules and regulations, but given a law that offers great opportunity for abuse, clear rules have to be laid down for the enforcers.

The law sets aside the constitutional guarantees of due process and presumption of innocence and allows its enforcers to detain people on mere suspicion and raw intelligence. A court before which a case has been filed may limit the right of the accused to travel. It may also place the accused under house arrest, during which he may not use telephones, cell phones, e-mail, computers, the Internet and other means of communication. That could severely limit his access to counsel as well as to information he needs to prepare his defense.

It would even give the military a legal justification to go after people it can easily label as "terrorists." Expect the number of extrajudicial killings, which has been placed at more than 800 by Karapatan, to increase with the enforcement of the law. Expect also the number of forced disappearances to rise.

When the death penalty law was still in force, there were many cases where the perpetrators, such as rapists, killed their victims so that they would not be identified, arrested and punished. A similar situation could obtain under the antiterrorism law which imposes a fine of P500,000 a day on erring law enforcers. This provision could just make the custodians of suspects kill them so that they would not have to risk paying huge fines.

The law could be used to arrest leftist members of the panel conducting peace negotiations and eventually lead to the collapse of the talks. When this happens, the internal conflict would worsen and more human rights violations would be committed.

It could also be used to suppress legitimate dissent and social protest. For instance, rallies calling for the ouster of the President and workers' strikes could be considered acts of terrorism punishable under the law.

The Human Security Act is another instance of Orwellian Newspeak being foisted on the people by the Arroyo administration which has a perverted sense of human rights. Instead of ensuring the security of people, it will heighten their sense of insecurity. The law will strike fear in the hearts of innocent people who could, at any time, and at the whim of administration officials and the military, be falsely labeled "terrorists," hounded and watched, their communication wiretapped, their assets seized, their movements limited, their freedom curtailed, and probably, even their very lives taken without any judicial proceeding. These things were happening even before the Human Security Act became law. The situation may worsen with the enforcement of the law by an administration that has shown no respect for human rights.

We hope that the Supreme Court will grant the militants' petition to suspend enforcement of the law so that it can be discussed publicly and more thoroughly, to the end that all possible loopholes for abuse will be plugged.

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Systems meltdown

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

WHAT WILL SEAR PEOPLE'S LIVES MORE than today's political dogfights over the Senate presidency or House speakership is the little-noticed meltdown of already faltering health systems.

Town after town has lost vital health care personnel who've migrated. And modern hospitals mask the emergence of the threat in cities. In slums, "modern" diseases, like diabetes and hypertension, are surging even before the poor curb "old" illnesses, like diarrhea and tuberculosis.

"A health disaster is impending if nothing drastic is done," Jaime Galvez Tan, Fernando Sanchez and Virginia Balanon warned at the Antonio Sison Memorial Lecture. Political instability, corruption, under-funding of health over four decades, plus unstanched migration, stoke the crunch.

"Hospitals in Surigao del Norte, Lanao del Sur and and Sulu (and) two in Isabela have no more nurses," Galvez Tan, Sanchez and Balanon noted. "Two hospitals in Zamboanga del Sur could not operate new wards due to lack of nurses." They long lost their doctors.

Most doctors gravitate into cities. And the migration stampede, which started in the 1960s, spared no speciality from pediatrics and obstetrics to internal medicine, orthopedic, etc. They streamed toward the United States, Europe and the Middle East.

Figures on doctors, nurses, midwives and dentists vary widely. There are no accurate tallies on those who've left, since many bypass official channels. Philippine Medical Association data on physicians is "soft."

But what has been tracked shocks. The Philippine General Hospital loses almost a quarter of its 2,000 workforce yearly. "Educated guesses" say 7 out of 10 Filipinas who hold BS in nursing degrees work in 32 countries. "I have a BSN," brags a former Filipino journalist who drives her nurse-wife to a Chicago hospital. "*Binuhay sa* nurse."

Sedated by wow-wow-wee pap, people haven't looked hard at the consequences. But 5 out of 10 Filipinos die without medical attention. Health professionals attend only 60 percent of births here. The comparative figure for Vietnam is 85, the UN Human Development Report notes. Some 200 Filipino mothers die in every 100,000 births. Compare that to Malaysia's 41. Kuala Lumpur spends almost double on health (2.2 percent of GDP) what we do (1.2 percent).

The "bleeding" became a hemorrhage since Galvez Tan, Sanchez and Balanon presented their June 2005 study. "The more recent outflow is more disturbing since they're no longer migrating as medical doctors but as nurses." An earlier baseline survey revealed that "more than 3,500 Filipino doctors left, as nurses, since 2000."

Today, the country loses more health workers than it trains. "The large exodus ... has been unparalleled in nurse migration history." Enrollment in 36 medical schools has slumped. "The medical profession is under severe threat of decimation." If continued, this "overdraft" will tailspin into bankruptcy.

"What falls below the radar of metro-focused media are losses of municipal health workers," notes former Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez Jr. "This is where a child with dengue or a father with tetanus gets crucial help. But over 100 towns have gone without service for over a decade now. And this emergency will soon erupt in our cities."

All cities, Plato wrote, are made up of two: a city of the rich and another of the poor. Residents of gated enclaves, like Forbes Park or Cebu's Maria Luisa, can afford services from better-equipped privately operated hospitals. Some are treated abroad—by Filipino specialists. But these are a tiny minority. They foster what Worldwatch Institute calls "myth of the healthy city."

The reality is: vast majority of city residents are hard-up. In crammed settlements or slums, they struggle with short rations, polluted water and shoddy sanitation. Economic gaps strap these large populations into health inequalities. Stubbornly high birth rates and migrants fleeing rural indigence are seen in scrawny adults and stunted children of "the ailing city."

Crowded, under-funded government hospitals often turn away patients. In poorer areas of Davao, Iloilo, Cebu or Sorsogon, only 58 out of every 100 one-year-olds are fully immunized. But the rate is 81 in those high-walled subdivisions with security guards. TB incidence here is 463 for every 100,000 population. It is 208 for Thailand

The health profile of cities show infectious diseases of massive penury, like TB, interlock with the ailments of modernity: heart disease, hypertension. This "double burden of disease" does not follow in sequence, as the West experienced earlier, note Harvard Medical School and World Health Organization Today. They overlap and must be addressed simultaneously. Where will today's Filipinos get the health personnel and drugs to do this?

"This out-of-the-box situation demands out-of-the-box solutions," Galvez Tan, Sanchez and Balanon add. To "achieve a rational program of departure of health personnel" and ensure services for citizens, they've crafted a 10-point package. The proposals range from enactment of a National Health Service Act to World Trade Organization discussions of health services across national borders.

Cuba devised a health care system for the poor that enables its citizens to live longer than most Latin Americans. Here, kindergarten kids sing the ditty: "Mother, mother, I am sick/ Call the doctor very quick." For now, the answer is: "Sorry, kid, the doctor didn't leave a forwarding address."

* * *

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Still, what opposition?

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A READER, HENRY DELGADO, DISAGREES with an INQUIRER editorial. It's not true at all, he says, that the only way to interpret the last senatorial elections is that the voters voted for the opposition. Maybe they voted for "critical collaboration." If so, then Manuel Villar is the perfect man for it, and deserves to be Senate president. The INQUIRER's unhappiness with Villar's predilection for compromise is unjustified, and merely echoes the sentiments of Villar's rivals, among them Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Panfilo Lacson. In fact, don't they have "naked ambition written all over them"?

Vicente Romano III of Black & White has another take. His group, he says, is alarmed by the acrimony among the GO senators in the selection of Senate president. "We urge the opposition senators ... to hold a caucus and decide exclusively among themselves who the next Senate president will be. We call on ... them to rise above personal ambition for the higher interest of the people who, in the last elections, pinned their hopes and aspirations on them. The worst thing that could happen is for the opposition which won with an overwhelming mandate .... to end up as the minority in the 14th Congress."

They miss the point.

First off, I agree completely with the thinking that the voters voted overwhelmingly for GO and several independent candidates because they wanted opposition. Or more to the point, because they thoroughly disliked the current (non-)President intensely and wanted to put people in the Senate who would oppose her. If the voters had wanted "critical collaboration," they would have voted Team Unity, which was pitching that line.

Antonio Trillanes' victory is the clearest proof of that. The voters were in no mood to be collaborative, they were in the mood only to be combative. Trillanes was the one person that represented opposition to GMA in the most strident terms, the one person Hermogenes Esperon did not wish to see win. To no avail. The voters voted for him anyway, one suspects out of sheer spite for his tormentors. You can't have a better gauge of public sentiment—or resentment—than that.

I've heard about the backroom politics from the feuding sides. Villar's detractors have pointed out with much shaking of the head his betrayal of the opposition, choosing instead to woo the administration candidates first by promising them various choice committees before talking to his ex-allies. His defenders have pointed out with even more shaking of the head Lacson's, Mar Roxas' and Loren Legarda's intractability, an intractability that comes from their own eyes being fixed on 2010. There were several attempts apparently by the opposition to hold meetings to find a common stand on the Senate presidency, but these failed, each group accusing the others of sabotage.

What is dismaying about all this is not the opposition's inability to consolidate their victory at the polls by having a Senate president who would distribute the spoils among them. What is dismaying—no, disgusting—about this is that this so-called opposition can think of nothing else. What is dismaying about this is not that the opposition cannot get its act together in the simple matter of choosing a Senate president, mounting one failed meeting after the other. What is dismaying—no, disgusting—about this is that this so-called opposition should try to mount one meeting after another to discuss nothing else.

Romano is wrong. The worst thing that could happen is not for the opposition which won an overwhelming mandate to end up as the minority in the 14th Congress. The worst thing that could happen is for this opposition, which is betraying its mandate even before it has begun to warm the bench, to end up as the majority in the 14th Congress.

What is the mandate of the opposition? The mandate of the opposition is to oppose. The voters put them there not so they could oppose the fact that they are not in power while their administration rivals are. The voters put them there to oppose the fact that an illegitimate government is mounting a dictatorship on this country. What is dismaying—no, disgusting—is that at the time the opposition was busy opposing one another on who should step into the shoes of the Senate president—and presumably the president three years from now—was that they did not lack for more life-and-death things to oppose. There was the impending reign of terror in the form of the antiterror law, there was the unrelenting spread of the culture of impunity in the form of the killings, there was Edita Burgos, mother to a disappeared child, who could not find justice in a land her husband helped to free.

Hell, they were so busy opposing each other they could not even oppose the horrendous iniquity of one of their own, Koko Pimentel, being muscled out of their fold right before their very eyes.

At least in 1971, when the opposition won overwhelmingly because of universal public loathing for Marcos, they were united in their determination to thwart him from ruling forever, his ambition in that respect being manifested, if not being patent, in every move he made. It didn't work of course: Marcos declared martial law the following year, a full year ahead of his last year in office, which caught the opposition by surprise. And which voided their victory completely. Today, when the opposition didn't win that big, though enough to show the near-universal public loathing for GMA, they can't part their egos like curtains long enough to see how she is laying the foundations of martial law stone by stone without the courtesy of declaring martial law.

Become president in 2010? These guys are dreaming. Or having wet dreams that end up soiling the linen.

Swerte si Gloria. Malas si Juan.

Do justice to slain Marines

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

DECIMATION IN THE RANKS OF THE MILITARY IS something we in Alay sa Kawal (ASK) Foundation confront every day as a reality in a terrible and senseless war that we pray would come to a peaceful end someday. ASK was founded by a group of civilian professionals, led by Ambassador to London Edgardo Espiritu and lawyer Ramon Pedrosa, in August 1987. Our objective has been to help the widows and orphans of ordinary soldiers killed in action or permanently disabled by combat injury, primarily by extending them financial assistance. In the past 20 years, ASK has aided over 4,000 orphaned families. I must say, however, that the recent encounter in Basilan, which saw the killing of 14 Marines, saddens and outrages ASK more than any other incident.

* * *

One reason is the barbaric way 10 of the Marines were beheaded and their bodies mutilated reportedly by a combined force of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Abu Sayyaf. Such acts of barbarism go against the very tenets of Islam as well as the Geneva Conventions that the MILF likes to invoke, and these should be condemned by Christians and Muslims alike. Then there are those mortars that "misfired" and grenade launcher munitions that turned out to be duds. The Marines are the toughest fighters in the Armed Forces of the Philippines and their inability to fight back was due to the poor equipment furnished them. To military families, nothing could be more heartbreaking than this. The military command has set up an investigation team to dig into the truth about the Basilan encounter. The team must do the job thoroughly, if only to do justice to those Marines who died heroically.

* * *

With the proclamation of the last senatorial winner, focus has shifted to the crying need for electoral reforms and many ideas are being thrown about. The main focus right now is the office of Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos. He has a lot of critics, but short of his voluntary resignation, which he won't do, or impeachment, which won't prosper, he cannot be removed since he occupies a constitutional position. But his seven-year tenure ends next year and already his successor is being discussed. Interestingly, some election lawyers who handled different candidates in the last elections appear to be pushing one name for Comelec chief: lawyer Leila de Lima, who handled various cases for the opposition. Her competence is acknowledged by her colleagues and at last Thursday's Supreme Court hearing on Koko Pimentel's petition, two justices were said to have been very impressed with this lawyer who was on her feet for four hours of non-stop grilling. She didn't win the case for her client Pimentel, but she certainly made people sit up and take notice.

* * *

Last week, I wrote about the excellent symposium on "Philippine-France Historical Relations" sponsored by the French Embassy, in cooperation with the Ateneo University, to celebrate 60 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Most interesting were the accounts of descendants of the Gaston, Dreyfus and Kahn families about how their ancestors integrated with various localities in the 1800s. Mayor Elionor Pillas of Jala-Jala, Rizal, recounted how a French surgeon, Chenelier de la Gironiere, landed in Cavite in 1820 amid a raging malaria epidemic that he was eventually suspected to have started. Saved by the wife of a soldier he had cured from being lynched by the town folks, he fled to Manila with 12 Mexican dollars in his pocket and married a Mexican lady who had lost all her money in the galleon trade. By a twist of luck, he was able to buy big tracts of land in Laguna and Rizal and helped convert Jala-Jala into a thriving community growing coffee scientifically.

* * *

Prof. Santiago Pilar of the UP College of Fine Arts recounted the exposure of Filipino painters abroad to the French classical and impressionist movements, while Prof. Leovino Garcia of the Ateneo philosophy department spoke of how renowned French philosophers continue to inspire serious study by Filipinos in various universities here. But it's in the field of private education where the French have made some of the most significant contributions to this nation. Several religious orders originating in France have been engaged in educating upper-crust Filipinos over the decades, part of the great legacy of Catholic education here. With the public school system deteriorating over the years, the Catholic educational institutions have taken a big brunt of the responsibility to educate Filipinos.

The Assumption sisters, who celebrated the canonization last month of their beloved founder, St. Marie Eugenie, first came here in 1892 aboard the steamer Isla de Panay and opened their Superior Normal School in Intramuros with 100 students. Two years later, they set up their convent in Malate, together with a boarding school, and pioneered in women's education. Juan Luna's "La Independencia" had two women staffers who were graduates of their normal school. Assumptionists Librada Avelino and Carmen de Luna founded Centro Escolar University, while Rosa Sevilla Alvero set up Instituto de Mujeres.

Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres, who suffered persecution after the French Revolution, first landed in Dumaguete in October 1904, before setting up a school in Manila. By 1930, the local congregation was raised to a province and out of over 4,000 St. Paul sisters worldwide today, 586 are Filipinas, of whom 78 percent are in foreign missions.

The Christian Brothers belong to the order founded by St. John Baptist de la Salle, who lived in 17th-century France and dedicated himself to the Christian education of young boys. The brothers, including five French nationals, arrived in RP in 1911 and founded their first school in Paco, Manila, which later became De La Salle College. In 2006, their 18 schools all over the country formally established the De La Salle Philippines Systems, which has ties with various foreign institutions.

Tongue-in-cheek on Migz

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"YA GOTTA HAND IT TO MIGZ," GOES A STATEment issued by the Black &White Movement, issued in the wake of the recent proclamation and swearing-in of former Rep. Miguel "Migz" Zubiri as the 12th placer in the senatorial race. "God helps those that help themselves. So when Migz Zubiri thanked God, he was also thanking Gloria, Garci, Bedol and Abalos: the faces of our modern 'democrazy'."

Tongue firmly in cheek, the statement's authors claim to commiserate with Chavit Singson, who was reported to have landed the top spot in Team Unity's incredible "12-0" result in Maguindanao, only to lose to Zubiri when Maguindanao's votes were finally canvassed.

"Now, Migz owes a lot," the Black & White statement continues. "When he thanked God, Mama Mary, and all the saints, he was being a grateful person. Grateful, maybe not to the people of Maguindanao, but definitely thankful to all those who helped make his election as credible as Mrs. Arroyo's 2004 victory. As the second most impoverished province of ARMM, we can only hope Maguindanao gets the attention it deserves from him and that it's not just the usual suspects who get to enjoy the blessings helping Migz win will give."

As for "the millions of us that voted for Koko Pimentel," the statement says, "we had it coming," if only for clinging to illusions about how the "system" works. "We were old-fashioned enough to believe what mattered more was a genuine mandate, that our votes would count as much as the votes for Migz. How were we to know that neither our votes nor Migz's votes mattered at all? What mattered most was never in the public's hands: it was the counting, and who did the counting, that mattered. It didn't even matter if the votes were there, and it didn't matter if all anyone wanted was a chance to vote again, without terrorism and manufactured documents substituting for an election."

Sarcasm may not be an especially helpful reaction to political developments, but given the way the political establishment has handled the midterm elections, sincerity would only be wasted on our officials. Migz Zubiri may genuinely believe in his mandate, but a cloud of doubt—and cynicism—will hound him until the next time he tests his appeal to voters.

* * *

HERE'S the latest development in the case of Dr. Noel Chua, the Filipino-American doctor who's been in jail for almost a year—without benefit of a trial—on various charges stemming from the death of a patient who was also his employee.

Camden County (Georgia) Sheriff Bill Smith has told The Filipino Reporter's Edmund Silvestre that he will be filing today (Georgia time) before the Camden Country Board of Commissioners a resolution calling on a Superior Court judge "to correct an injustice by setting a bond" for the release of Chua.

The Fil-Am doctor was imprisoned without bail last September, nine months after the death of James Carter, 20, a college student who was also employed by the doctor as a filing clerk, who was found dead in a bathroom in Chua's home. Police investigators said Chua had prescribed the drugs that killed Carter, holding him on a double murder charge and various felonies, including 17 alleged violations of Georgia's drug laws. The local prosecutor also slapped Chua with a RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) charge that gave authorities the power to take control of all his assets and which has left Chua without the means to finance his defense.

The "strongly-worded resolution" drafted by Smith calls on Judge Amanda Williams "to right a tremendous wrong by granting a bond to ... Chua," pointing out that the judge has been granting a bond to defendants facing similar crimes.

* * *

CHUA'S case has galvanized the Fil-Am community in Georgia and around the United States, as well as his neighbors, friends and patients and their families. Silvestre writes that even doctors in the Philippines are getting involved, especially "FEU medical graduates who are calling their friends in Georgia" after hearing about the case.

In Georgia, much of the organizing effort is led by a former actress-singer, Maritoni "Toni" Daya, who's been quite active in Fil-Am causes in Georgia, including helping promote the Philippines as a tourist and investment destination.

The Filipino Reporter, in an editorial written by editor Bert Pelayo, maintains that "racial profiling" is behind Chua's arrest and lengthy detention without trial. The jury is still literally out (there has yet to be a trial, remember) on this matter, but there's no doubt that something is amiss. As the editorial states: "If the DA really had the goods on Dr. Chua, why did he not bring his 'iron-clad, no-escape' case to trial? And why is he now grasping for Dr. Chua's copping a guilty plea in exchange for a binding probation or outright exoneration?

"Come on, Mr. DA, be fair. Put up or shut up. Now the DA wants to hand his 'Case of the Century' to a federal prosecutor. This is like a biblical metaphor of an apostle washing his hands for betraying Jesus."

What Chua's supporters are asking for is not special treatment for the doctor, but fair play and justice, especially the right to a speedy trial which has already been denied him. As the Reporter declares:

"No man is above the law. But no one should be below it.

"Dr. Chua deserves to be freed on bond. He deserves a free and prompt trial. A year in jail for him is an unjust punishment that can never be restored in terms of a blemish already inflicted to his integrity, character and humanity.

"We applaud him for adamantly refusing to admit to a crime that he says he did not commit.

"We wish he will be vindicated at the end of a long and horrible day."

GMA's insurance policy

NEWSSTAND

John Nery

THE "NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE SUMMIT" organized by the Supreme Court to search for solutions to the related problems of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances enters its second, more participative day today. The delegates will divide themselves into 12 "breakout" groups, each to be chaired by an associate justice of the Court, to discuss specific proposals. That the summit was convened is already, in the words of former Senate President Jovito Salonga, "unprecedented in the history of this Court and elsewhere." That the justices themselves will run the workshops—well, this must be one for the books.

* * *

Juan Miguel Zubiri, proclaimed senator last Saturday after two hearings in the Supreme Court, has undergone the "crucible of a democratic process" before—almost four years ago, in fact, when together with some 80 other congressmen, he voted to impeach the chief justice. This newspaper called the second, constitutionally infirm impeachment an insidious assault on the judiciary. "The Filipino nation and its democratic institutions have no doubt been put to test once again by this impeachment case against Chief Justice Hilario Davide," Associate Justice Conchita Carpio Morales wrote in her elegant ponencia. (The first quote is from *Francisco v. House of Representatives* too.)

In one of the many editorials published during the crisis, the INQUIRER described the attempt to unseat Davide as an abuse of power. "The action against the head of the Supreme Court was a naked exercise of power, a blatant flexing of political muscle."

Zubiri must thank his lucky stars the justices do not hold grudges.

* * *

What is at stake in the struggle for leadership of the administration majority in the House of Representatives? The President's post-Malacañang insurance policy.

Both Speaker Jose de Venecia and Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia have said they will not rely on the President's support to win the vote, when the chamber decides the leadership issue on the morning of July 23.

Garcia recounted that, after De Venecia brought over a hundred congressmen to the Palace in a show of force last June 1, the President sent for him. "After that meeting, I was called to Malacañang at 3 p.m. The President told me: 'I won't endorse anyone publicly.'"

Garcia said his response was: "That's good enough for us. We fight our own battles."

De Venecia also told us he did not expect the President to get involved, precisely because he already has enough votes for reelection. (Before the first party-list groups were proclaimed, De Venecia reckoned that 124 votes were needed to win.)

He also recounted that, in the 1992 race for the speakership, President Fidel Ramos did not intervene. It was only when the Lakas minority had been transformed into the nucleus of an administration coalition, he said, that Ramos declared his support.

(This is an assertion we can understand, but not credit; surely Ramos, who famously worked the phones during Edsa 1986, did not look on passively when his party-mate and chief campaigner threw his Pangasinan-sized hat into the ring.)

* * *

Garcia thinks the key factor in this year's contest is the Nationalist People's Coalition. (Yes, the very same party that pushed the Davide impeachment through the House on Oct. 23, 2003.) If at the right time the NPC votes as a bloc, "then it will be the tipping point," he said.

* * *

If history is any judge, however, it will be the President's vote that counts.

As already pointed out by colleague and co-blogger Manolo Quezon (we take turns writing for Inquirer Current, at inquirerbloggers.net/cur-

rent), every president enjoys an administration majority in the House. Even if the opposition takes the House in a given election, enough congressmen will switch parties or join coalitions of convenience before the first session starts to assure the president of administration control.

This record, or political tradition if you will, means President Arroyo will need to choose between the insurance policies De Venecia and Garcia are offering.

De Venecia can guarantee an impeachment-free zone; petitions may be filed, but they will not prosper. He can also offer the prospect of constitutional change.

Garcia, whose family is ascendant in Cebu province, offers potential victory for GMA's candidate for president in 2010. He pointed out that none of the leading candidates come from Lakas. And yet "the 2010 election is already being played out." We can see Garcia doing the math. Cebu delivered a million votes for the President in 2004; it delivered millions of votes for Team Unity candidates last May. If his daughter Gwen, reelected Cebu governor with an overwhelming margin, runs for vice president, she can deliver the Cebuano-speaking vote, too.

Gwen herself told us: "[The year] 2010 is fast approaching. It's no longer about impeachment."

* * *

Aquilino Pimentel III of the Genuine Opposition said he needs to raise about P5 million to fund the election protest he will file with the Senate Electoral Tribunal, perhaps by Monday. He is protesting the vote in Maguindanao province and about 15 municipalities. Perhaps men and women of good will, or at least those with an active interest in election reform, may consider chipping in. If a "*piso-piso*" campaign can elect a governor, maybe it can determine, with finality, the 2007 elections' 12th senator.

* * *

BOOK NEWS: The country's biggest bookstore, Fully Booked in Bonifacio High Street, inside the Fort Bonifacio development in Taguig, formally opens today. Count 'em: Five floors of books.

* * *

Email: inery@inquirer.com.ph

Fishing

YOUNG BLOOD

Cecille C. Nepomuceno

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

I SPENT THE INDEPENDENCE DAY WEEKEND IN IBA, Zambales. It was a family outing, a treat for my *balikbayan* Aunt Mercy and Uncle Ely who came home from California a week earlier.

We arrived at Balitok Beach Resort on Sunday afternoon. Summer was over but it still felt like summer because it did not rain during our entire stay. (In the Philippines, when it's not raining during the rainy season, it still feels like summer!) The weather was perfect because the sun was not so hot and the breeze was cool.

We ate a lot, laughed and talked a lot, sang a lot and swam a lot. "*Ang sarap talaga ng buhay sa Pilipinas! Wag na tayong umalis uli* (How wonderful life is here in the Philippines. Let's not leave anymore)!" my *balikbayan* uncle told my aunt.

Early the following morning, I was so happy to be not at work and instead just happily jogging on the clean and breezy beach of Zambales. It was high tide and I was with my stepdad. We talked about family, life and love while sweating out all the fats and calories we ate the night before. I had forgotten to pack my jogging socks and I could feel the sand trapped in my rubber shoes while treading, but it didn't matter. It was nice to watch little kids playing on the sand, running and splashing water at each other.

Later that morning, we (my brother, uncle, stepdad, cousins and I) went fishing. We rented a boat to bring us out to sea. It took quite a while before anyone of us caught a fish. Uncle Chito said, "One needs patience to go fishing." But that afternoon, I learned more than just about fishing. I realized that fishing is like looking for love.

In fishing, you have to wait patiently for your fish. However, it does not mean you are not going to do anything. The fish does not just jump out of the sea and let you catch it. You have to throw out a fishing line with little shrimps for bait. The fisherman, who was guiding us, said, "*Paminsan-minsan titingnan mo kung may pain pa. Kinakain lang kasi minsan* (You should check if the bait is still there. Sometimes the fish is able to eat it without getting caught)." Some fishes can be sly; they just eat the bait without being hooked!

Stressful relationships sometimes leave us totally wrecked —"*luhaan, sugatan, di mapakinabangan,*" as Up Dharma Down puts it in the song, "Oo". And to heal ourselves, we dive into another relationship demanding for everything we have been frustrated about, resulting in a more stressful relationship. There's a saying, "You have to have love in order to give love." In fishing, you cannot catch a fish if you don't have anything to get it hooked with. Some people (ahem, like me) are in a constant search for a partner who will complete them, because they feel that alone, they lack something. One does not need big squids or prawns for bait. A little confidence in oneself will do.

You also have to know where to fish. You go to the deeper end of the sea, where there's more and bigger fish.

When fishing, you don't let the fish know you're coming, for that will only drive them away. So be discreet in your approach.

There are instances when you think you have caught something, because the fishing rod feels heavy. You get excited, believing this is the fish you've been waiting for. Then you discover that your fishing line just got stuck in the rocks or corals underneath. You try to recover your fishing line by pulling it as hard as you can, but if it's really stuck, you have no choice but to cut it.

It is truly hard to get over a heartbreak. It may take years to finally accept that a relationship was not meant to be. And when we have finally forgiven ourselves for everything that happened, we just let it all go, cut it away if we must. All the bait has been eaten and there's nothing left for us to recover.

I have waited all of 24 years to learn how to fish. I caught a beautiful, medium-sized lapu-lapu after two hours of fishing. My cousins and uncles got theirs faster. But even if it took me a while to catch my fish, it was worth the wait. I can't describe the joy when I finally held the fish in my hand and transferred it to the bucket. I got one and it was all mine!

I can just imagine the happiness waiting for me when I finally catch the love of my life. But how long must I wait? Am I stuck or what?

Cecille C. Nepomuceno, 24, is a communications assistant at Hallmark Cards, Philippines, Inc.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Irresponsible

"I have learned not to believe everything I read or hear. I always want to give the benefit of the doubt. I have made mistakes in the past by making judgments based on write-ups and rumors. Respect, integrity and word of honor are sorely lacking in the business. Responsible journalism as well."

—Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano, head of Manila Genesis Entertainment & Management Inc., and wife of popular singer Gary Valenciano

Sin's role

"Those hands wrote and signed countless pastoral letters that condemned evil and soothed the weary hearts of freedom fighters during the dark years of martial law."

—Bishop Socrates Villegas, speaking of Jaime Cardinal Sin during the commemoration of Sin's second death anniversary

Option

"We long for a time when working abroad will be an option rather than a necessity."

—President Macapagal-Arroyo at the World Economic Forum on East Asia

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Human Security Act is inhuman

WE, THE CONVENORS OF THE Inter-faith Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation Network, as people of God called to raise the prophetic voice of the church against any policy that degrades the human person and to bring to light whatever untruths may cause injustice, hatred and division, would like to make known our position on the Human Security Act.

The church is and will always be the church of and for the poor. It is called to care and give hope to the marginalized and to the victims of injustice.

Committed to the doctrines and teachings of our faith; and believing in the human person as the primary revelation of God in the world—Jesus Christ Himself became man and one with us—we are firm in our objective to work for the promotion of human rights and to uphold human dignity. Because we believe in the sacredness of human life and all of Life itself, we lament the inhuman character of the Human Security Act for the following reasons:

1. It criminalizes the act of demanding from government; it is an affront to freedom and equality because it penalizes anyone who expresses grievances. Free expression, which includes peaceful assembly, is the cornerstone of the social, political, economic and religious human person.

2. It is a clear declaration of authoritarianism and absolute power. It puts in danger anybody because it gives the arresting officer the power to define, in his own terms, the character of the offense the arrested is accused of. In short, "absolute" means "anybody." This may be understood in the definition of "terrorism" in Sec. 3, RA 9372, which is so broad that it is in effect a charge in itself and anyone can be arrested for anything he is doing.

3. It lumps together legal advocacy and incitement to criminal acts, as in the definition of an "unlawful demand." Who determines an "unlawful demand"? The definition as stated in the HSA is constitutionally impaired.

4. It suppresses the rights of free speech, free press, assembly and redress of grievances by attaching to those rights the stigma of illegality; it declares that to demand from government can be unlawful. This will silence the people and make them totally submissive.

The HSA is deceptive. It distorts the meaning of freedom, which is intrinsic and innate in the human person. The HSA, therefore, should not be implemented. It should be declared unconstitutional.

—BRO. GILBERT S. BILLENA, O.Carm,
Inter-faith Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation Network (IFJPICNetwork),
intefaith_jpic@yahoo.com

A shameful way of promoting medical tourism

IS THE FILIPINO KIDNEY WORTH $3,000 to $4,000? The question comes from the June 2007 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM).

Making the Philippines a destination of kidney-starved patient-tourists only magnifies our country's Third World status. Douglas Hanto sounded the ethical challenges of soliciting kidney donations in a 2007 NEJM article.

Direct altruistic donation to loved ones may be allowed. But most of the advances in kidney transplantation is focused on the recipient. The concerns of the donors are given scant attention. So what is life after parting with one of your kidneys?

In 1961 it was shown by Harold Dobson and other authorities, in a landmark article published in the Annals of Internal Medicine (AIM), that non-diabetics with a family history of diabetes could have the kidney lesions of early diabetes. This was confirmed by T. Moriya and a group of other authorities in a 2000 article published in the Journal of Medical Electron Microscopy.

In the '80s Thomas Hosteter showed remnant kidneys suffering from overload. Normally there are 2 million functioning units in the kidneys.

Julie Ingelfinger, in a 2003 paper, mentioned that pollution may have a mutagenic effect on the embryonic kidney and may cause significant reduction in the number of functioning units. Thus, persons with this abnormality should not be taken as donors. Neil Boudville and others, in a 2006 article in the AIM, showed that 10 years after donation, the blood pressure of a donor rises by 5 to 10 mm of Hg.

Do physicians who are involved in kidney transplantation fully explain to would-be donors its possible harmful effects? Of three donors I know, one who has a strong family history of diabetes is now suffering from high blood sugar, hypertension and early kidney disease; the other two are back to vending cigarettes.

—ALBERTO DAYSOG JR., M.D.,
UST Hospital, España, Manila

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Bureaucratic insensitivity

ABOLISH THE NATIONAL STATISTics Office now! The NSO was supposedly created principally to counteract the faking of birth documents so prevalent in this country. It centralized the recording of vital documents pertaining to the citizens of this country and issuances of certified official copies.

After all these years, it has caused the general public more unimaginable hardship than convenience. Visit that office any working day of the week and you will surely weep at the sheer madness that assails your senses. It is the most ungodly place to be. The lines snake through a long and winding and narrow labyrinth all the way into the streets. One cannot help thinking that the head of that office has got to be the most sadistic son of a gun to ever walk this earth.

The lines had never been that nightmarish before, when people simply went to the local civil registrar's office of the place where they were born to obtain their birth certificate or what-have-you. The country survived with that setup.

Sure, fakery happened, but measures could have been taken to strengthen and insulate those offices from graft and corruption, instead of making them virtually irrelevant. The NSO was a bad and cruel idea, now becoming the epitome of bureaucratic insensitivity and tyranny.

—STEPHEN L. MONSANTO,
slmonsanto@yahoo.com.ph

Kiko on race for Senate presidency

I WRITE IN RESPONSE TO THE July 12 column of Manuel L. Quezon III wherein he disagreed with the position I have taken in the ongoing race for the Senate presidency. He took me to task for taking a position different from that of the other LP senators.

Allow me to clarify that as chair of the Liberal Party, my loyalty is not to the Wednesday Group as he suggested. For the record, the Liberal Party does not have an official party position on the Senate presidency race, but LP senators have made their decisions as individuals. In the same vein, the Liberal Party does not have an official position on the choice of speaker in the ongoing tussle in the House of Representatives.

When the Liberal Party took a stand and asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down in July 2005, I stood foursquare behind the party's official decision. There was a party decision made and as such all party members were expected to toe the party line. I did. Some of my fellow Liberals did not, and they know who they are. If the Liberal Party had an official candidate for the Senate presidency, I would support and vote for our candidate. As earlier stated, we do not have a party position, and in the absence of an official party position, we vote based on the dictates of our conscience.

In the recent political upheavals in our nation's history, my track record as a public servant will bear me out. From Edsa II in 2001 to the Hello Garci/Hyatt 10 controversy in 2005, and to the recently concluded 2007 Senate elections—in all these instances, I have made very difficult decisions based on principle and conviction and not on political convenience, accommodation or ambition.

I hope that I have been able to clarify certain matters regarding my participation in the selection of the next Senate president.

—SEN. FRANCIS "KIKO" PANGILINAN,
Rm. 603 GSIS Financial Center,
Senate of the Philippines,
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Absurd charges vs ambassador

I WAS ALARMED AT THE NEGAtive publicity that Ambassador Susan Castrence got recently. The allegations made against her were totally absurd. I am sure the issues will be sorted out in time and her name will be cleared accordingly.

As an old friend and a colleague in several social outreach projects benefiting the underprivileged sectors of our society, I personally know the ambassador's quiet involvement in efforts to improve Philippine society.

Susan, as I fondly call her, has been supportive of the goals and objectives of Kasangga, an NGO which is helping marginalized communities through livelihood/employment generation programs, financial assistance, etc. She is also actively involved in our family foundation, Razon T. Haresco Foundation, which was founded and inspired by my parents to give back to society part of life's and God's blessings through socially relevant programs that provide a better future for the people. Susan would assist us in our livelihood projects, educational scholarships, training programs, microfinancing and a host of other activities that require her professional expertise. She is involved in a project providing educational scholarships for "children of murdered journalists."

I have seen Susan work with passion and commitment. Altogether, she is also helping us in promoting the social projects of the Augustian Congregation and other people-oriented social causes—in a quiet, humble and unassuming way.

This letter may not sit well with her as she is not the attention-getting, media-oriented person, but as a friend of many years, I believe it is my duty to rally behind a good person who has proven her integrity, loyalty, dedication to public service and love of country.

Ambassador Susan Castrence is a caring and good person with a good heart. Let us rally behind her, for the world needs people whose hearts are big enough for others.

—TED T. HARESCO,
president,
R.T. Haresco Foundation,
Ritz Towers,
6745 Ayala Ave., Makati City

Thousands of OFWs victims of abuse

THIS IS A REACTION TO THE news article titled "Family of OFW facing execution seeks help." (INQUIRER, 6/24/07)

Joven Esteva needs urgent help. But the Esteva family is only one of thousands of OFW families seeking justice for loved ones being abused and tortured in their workplaces abroad. Like Esteva, anyone of these OFWs might be led by such cruel circumstances into committing a crime.

I have an uncle who is also working in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. We also worried about his safety and security.

We must not ignore the crisis that the Esteva and his family are going through right now. Most of us have relatives, too, working abroad, sacrificing and risking their lives for the sake of the families they left here in our homeland.

Our government, specifically our President, must act on this and similar problems before more OFWs and their families fall into this kind of situation.

—JOSEPHINE C. LUCERO,
640 General Luna St.,
Barangay Bagong Silangan, QC

A hazard to defenseless pensioners

I WRITE ON BEHALF OF MY 84-year-old mother, a retiree and a GSIS pensioner, hoping that this letter will merit special attention and awaken GSIS officials, headed by Winston Garcia, from their "sleepy," inept service.

My mother has not received her pension benefits since December 2006. Her last check was issued in November last year. A new policy of the GSIS required her to apply for an eCard, through which her benefits would be transmitted to her, instead of through checks, the GSIS explained. But my mother, due to advanced age, is unable to walk and couldn't comply with the GSIS requirements. After three months of repeated requests (coursed through the GSIS satellite office in Virac, Catanduanes) from us, the GSIS sent a mobile team to see my mother. To cut a long story short, they told her that she had to wait for one month to have her documents processed—that was in the second week of May 2007. Up to this date, she has not received her eCard.

My mother has been solely relying on her monthly cash to pay for her regular medicines and health care. Not only that, these pension benefits were earned by my mother through hard work during her fruitful days of service as a teacher, on the assurance that these would give her a secure life upon her retirement. Instead, the GSIS is causing her so many frustrations and worries, and making her feel so insecure.

The delays in the pensions are a clear manifestation of the GSIS' inefficiency. And yet GSIS officials have been known for "doubtful lifestyle."

For me, nothing is wrong if a government official indulges himself in luxury or in some vanity so long as the public funds due the poor, age-stricken retirees and pensioners are not squandered for personal gain and selfish gratification.

To Mr. Garcia: I beseech your office to immediately act on the delayed pensions. The money the GSIS withholds from the pensioners is money that they have worked for, all their lives. That money could mean their lives. The GSIS' failure to give that money is tantamount to taking the lives of defenseless Filipinos.

—BEDA V. MONTARDE,
professor,
Republic Central Colleges,
Angeles City, Pampanga

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
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cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL, LTD. 21/F Enterprise Center, Tower 2, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Shandy Effo Kalim	Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL, LTD. 21/F Enterprise Center, Tower 2, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Sonny Fernando	Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL, LTD. 21/F Enterprise Center, Tower 2, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Dominic Boon Wah Teo	Administrative Officer
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL, LTD. 21/F Enterprise Center, Tower 2, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Jimmy Leono	Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL, LTD. 21/F Enterprise Center, Tower 2, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Widianto Lawrus	Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL, LTD. 21/F Enterprise Center, Tower 2, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Anton Sutopo	Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL, LTD. 21/F Enterprise Center, Tower 2, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Risan	Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL, LTD. 21/F Enterprise Center, Tower 2, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Wen Jet Yee	Customer Service Representative
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL, LTD. 21/F Enterprise Center, Tower 2, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Wijaya Yusmana Jacob	Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL, LTD. 21/F Enterprise Center, Tower 2, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Kim Chuan Tan	Customer Service Representative
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Kah Leong Kong	Accounts Officer
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Teng Ta Ng	Accounts Officer
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Junaidi	Accounts Officer
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Yan Tee Ang	Accounts Officer
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CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Kiat Sem Chong	Accounts Officer
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CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Lawrence Min Soon Tan	Accounts Officer
EDSA SHANGRI-LA HOTEL & RES., INC. (EDSA SHANGRI-LA MANILA) 1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City	Toshiaki Obigane	Japanese Chef
EDSA SHANGRI-LA HOTEL & RES., INC. (EDSA SHANGRI-LA MANILA) 1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City	Marcus Alfred Arthur Huber	Head Pastry Chef
PARAGON INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMER CARE LTD. 14/F Yuchengco Tower 1, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Aleksei Plotnikov	Customer Support Staff
WONDERPHIL CONSULTANT CORP. Unit F 7/F Westgate Tower, Investment Drive, Madrigal Bus. Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Seunghyan Keem	Field Administrator
WONDERPHIL CONSULTANT CORP. Unit F 7/F Westgate Tower, Investment Drive, Madrigal Bus. Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Changsoo Park	General Supervisor
SEVEN GEUM YUNG MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY Unit-IC T Tower Condo., 5040 P. Burgos St., Poblacion, Makati City	Sang Woo Kim	Manager
JGC PHILIPPINES, INC. JGC Phils., Bldg., 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Hiroki Kitajima	Vice President & Division Manager
MAYON INTERNATIONAL TRADING CORPORATION 2/F Bldg 1 2075 M.H. Del Pilar St., Malate, Manila	Young Tae Lee	Principal Representative
YOGAWORKS INC. 1503 88 Corporate Center, 141 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Julie Kathryn Shannon	Consultant
MANILA PATRIOTIC SCHOOL, INC. 711 T. Mapua St., Sta. Cruz, Manila	Xinghua Yu	Chinese Mandarin Language Teacher
LOWE, INC. 15, 16 & 17F Rufino Pacific Tower, 6784 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Stephen Matthew Clay	Executive Creative Director
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ELGORDO INC. 822 Tesoro Building, Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City	Hiroyuki Tamura	Chef

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity. For more information, please call 338-2013 & 303-8820.

ISABEL G. PANGANIBAN-ORTIGUERRA
Acting Regional Director

(PDI–July 17, 2007)

Experts say GMA, officers may be liable

From page A1

they "knew" of murder plots yet did not stop or punish subordinates who eventually carried out the killings.

Joakim Dungel of the International Criminal Tribunal (ICT) and Abigail Jane Hansen-Goldman, a human rights lawyer sent by the European Commission, presented papers on how the "command responsibility" doctrine could be invoked in the prosecution of such crimes.

"Command responsibility" was a recurring theme of the speakers in the Manila Hotel summit dubbed as an attempt by the Philippine judiciary to use its expanded constitutional mandate to protect human rights.

The presence of the two foreign international law experts reflected global concern over the hundreds of killings and abductions of activists and journalists since Ms Arroyo took office in 2001.

"In essence, command responsibility imposes criminal responsibility for a superior's 'failure to act when under a duty to do so,'" said Dungel, a Swedish lawyer who worked in the ICT trial for war crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

"A superior will incur command responsibility if he or she knows or has reason to know that his or her subordinates are about to commit or have committed crimes, unless the superior prevents the crimes, or punishes the perpetrators," he said.

"The perpetrator does not need to be directly subordinated to the superior, but can be several steps down the chain of command," Dungel said.

MILITANTS stage a rally near the Manila Hotel where a summit on extrajudicial killings is being held. REM ZAMORA

General Yamashita

"What matters is whether the superior has actual powers to control the actions of his or her subordinates," Dungel added. "If he or she does, then there is legal basis for command responsibility."

"A superior will not incur command responsibility if he or she is unable to obtain information about a crime," Dungel said. "But where the superior had the means to obtain such information and deliberately refrained from doing so, then knowledge can be presumed."

Goldman cited precedents set in an older war crimes trial etched in Filipino memory and held in Manila half a century ago—that of World War II Japanese commander Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita.

The commander of the 14th Army of Japan, she recalled, was charged with "unlawfully disregarding and failing to discharge his duty as a commander to control the acts of members of his command by permitting them to commit war crimes."

Removing presidential shield

Quoting jurisprudence from the ICT on Rwanda, Goldman said "crimes committed by a subordinate does not relieve his superior of criminal responsibility if he (the superior) knew or had reason to know that the subordinate was about to commit such acts or had done so, and the superior failed to take necessary and reasonable measures to prevent such acts or to punish the perpetrators."

"These elements do not allow a commander to plead ignorance—there is a duty incumbent upon a commander to take reasonable steps to acquire knowledge of a criminal act," Goldman said.

A Filipino legal eagle proposed what may be considered a more radical approach to pin down responsibility for the killings: Why not "discard" the President's immunity from suit?

"How do you hold the President accountable under 'command responsibility' if he is immune from suit?" asked Dean Pacifico Agabin of the Lyceum of the Philippines' College of Law.

"Absolute presidential immunity is becoming obsolete" and was "derived from the late unlamented doctrine that the 'King can do no wrong,'" he said.

Agabin said that in modern democracies, presidential immunity was now "garbed in a modern dress—Separation of Powers."

Bygone days

"It is high time that the Supreme Court discard, or at least circumscribe, this archaic doctrine," he said.

"Since the court has declared a number of times that no man is above the law, it should give meaning to this declaration by doing away with this archaic doctrine that belongs to the days of the monarchy."

In his paper titled "Accountability of the President under the Command Responsibility Doctrine," Agabin also said:

"It is essential that the responsibility to prevent extrajudicial killings and to penalize the culprits be pinned on the Commander in Chief because of the requirement under the command responsibility rule that the crimes concerned are activities that are within the effective responsibility and control of the superior."

Agabin cited a 2000 high court ruling which states that, as Commander in Chief, "the President has absolute authority over all members of the Armed Forces."

Ateneo law school dean emeritus Fr. Joaquin Bernas said the government should find ways to incorporate the concept of command responsibility in its statutes in order to combat abuses.

Bernas said there was a need to revisit the idea of making command responsibility a constitutional principle, a proposal shot down during the 1986 constitutional debates.

He said the objections were based on concerns about due process, among others. But he added that given the situation in the Philippines, there might be a need to incorporate command responsibility in the rules.

Bernas also said there was a need to study the military code to make sure that it incorporated the concept of command responsibility.

Not military policy

Ms Arroyo tried to deflect accusations that her troops had been involved in political activists.

"The military is very clear that it is not a military policy. So 99 percent of the military are law-abiding citizens who risk their lives to protect the nation," Ms Arroyo said in an interview with Reuters on Saturday.

Asked about prosecution for the suspects Ms Arroyo said: "Yes, in fact, there are soldiers who are in court."

Retired Supreme Court justice Jose Melo conceded there may be no solid proof just yet to prosecute military men for the spate of political killings, but "conclusions" can be drawn from the way a controversial Army general had regarded the victims.

Melo, who earlier this year presided over a fact-finding probe into the killings, was referring to retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, a "*berdugo*" (butcher) in the eyes of leftist militants.

He recalled the general once calling leftist leaders "still enemies of the state" even after they had been elected to Congress as party-list representatives.

Palparan also once made public that he "wanted communism totally erased," Melo said.

'No concrete evidence'

Another Palparan "quote" Melo cited went: "My order to my soldiers is that, if they are certain that there are armed rebels in the house or yard, shoot them. It will just be too bad if civilians are killed in the process. We are sorry if you are killed in the crossfire."

While saying that "no concrete evidence" had linked the Armed Forces to the killings, "we can draw out more conclusions from these statements," Melo told the gathering.

Former Sen. Wigberto Tanada proposed that the government and the communist rebels explore means to resume peace negotiations to put a stop to the killings and disappearances of militants.

"Since the killings have increased in the context of an intensified counterinsurgency campaign with more of a reliance on military means, it is high time to reexamine lessons learned and explore ways of resuming peace negotiations," Tanada said.

For his part, former Senate President Jovito Salonga said the prosecution and punishment of suspects should be "certain, speedy and severe" to deter killings and enforced disappearances.

"Prosecution and punishment serves the function of deterrence. But to be an effective deterrent, prosecution and punishment must be certain, speedy and severe," he said.

Retired Gen. Jose Almonte, national security adviser during the Ramos administration, challenged Ms Arroyo to start comprehensive reforms to end the country's insurgencies and the extrajudicial killings.

"It does not make sense when suspicions about the recent spate of extrajudicial killings are brought to the doorsteps of our armed services and of the highest office in the the land," Almonte said in his speech. *With reports from Norman Bordadora, TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac*

Writ of amparo protects citizens against abuses

From page A1

I asked Justice Azcuna who "Amparo" was and why a writ—a court order—is named after her. It turned out that "Amparo" is not a woman at all. In fact, the term is derived from the Spanish word "amparar" which means "to protect."

Justice Azcuna defined amparo as "a special constitutional writ to protect or enforce a constitutional right (other than physical liberty which is already covered by the writ of habeas corpus), in consonance with the power of the Supreme Court to adopt rules to protect or enforce constitutional rights."

Significance of writ

Thus, the writ of amparo becomes especially significant in the light of the two-day "National Consultative Summit on Extrajudicial Killings and Enforced Disappearances—Searching for Solutions" being convened at the initiative of the Supreme Court.

The summit brings together representatives from the executive and legislative departments, including the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police, as well as the Commission on Human Rights, media, academe, civil society and other interested stakeholders.

Of course, the Human Security Act is very much on the agenda, even as various human rights groups have mobilized for massive demonstrations against the administration's efforts in fighting terrorism.

Much depends on the effectiveness and evenhandedness of the Anti-Terrorism Council that is tasked with the responsibility for the proper and effective implementation of the law.

For example, it appears that the law could be interpreted as affording terrorists, including conspirators and suspected terrorists, fewer and lesser civil rights than ordinary criminals, including access to the courts. It behooves the members of the council to promulgate its rules and regulations by being fully cognizant of settled jurisprudence pertaining to our human rights and civil liberties so that they can shield the Human Security Act from a successful constitutional challenge.

2 key doctrines

Two established doctrines, which have been reiterated time and again by the Supreme Court to safeguard and preserve our civil liberties, immediately come to mind.

The first is the "Overbreath Doctrine," which states that "a governmental purpose may not be achieved by means which sweep unnecessarily broadly and thereby invade the area of protected freedoms."

A good example is the celebrated case of Randy David vs President Arroyo regarding her declaration of a "state of national emergency" under Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 and General Order No. 5, when the Supreme Court prevented the government from hunting down terrorists since "acts of terrorism" had not been defined and made punishable by Congress.

The second is the "Void-for-Vagueness Doctrine," which renders a law invalid "if men of common intelligence must necessarily guess at its meaning and differ as to its application."

Thus, a statute may be rendered void if its terms are uncertain or not sufficiently definite rendering it incomprehensible to ordinary people and thereby making the enforcement of the law arbitrary and subject to abuse.

Such a vague or ambiguous piece of legislation violates due process of law. It provides a rule to the effect that a statute establishing a criminal offense must define the offense with sufficient definiteness that persons of ordinary intelligence can understand what conduct is condemned.

Repercussions

How the Anti-Terrorism Council copes with these potential constitutional challenges has likewise far-reaching repercussions on the principle of separation of powers which underpins our democratic system of government.

More activist role

No less than Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno is placing the power and prestige of the Supreme Court, at the same time risking his own magistracy, behind a more activist role in safeguarding our civil liberties from creeping encroachments by the political branches of government.

Certainly, the judiciary cannot abdicate its oversight of the government's counterterrorism efforts. There are real grounds to fear that the government may overreach itself in pursuing a policy of preemption against anticipated acts of terrorism, real or imagined.

An improper enforcement of the many ambiguous provisions of the law may effectively erode or curtail many of our civil liberties, such as the rights of free speech and expression, to peaceably assemble to redress legitimate grievances, the right to privacy and to be left alone, to due process and equal access to the courts of justice, as well as other freedoms that impact on our lives, property and liberty.

The immediate dilemma confronting the government is how to balance these rights against the very real threat to our national security brought about by the globalization of terror that recognizes no national borders.

IN THE KNOW

Writ compels gov't agents to look for missing persons

THE WRIT OF AMPARO IS AN order issued by a court to protect the constitutional rights of a person. The word "amparo" comes from the Spanish verb "amparar," meaning "to protect."

In an interview, former Supreme Court Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban said explained that the writ of amparo was usually used in totalitarian countries to protect the rights of victims of disappearances.

In the Philippines, the remedy resorted to by relatives of missing persons is the petition for the writ of habeas corpus. But Chief Justice Reynato Puno said recently that petitions for habeas corpus just ended up with state agents saying the missing person was not in their custody.

Under the writ of amparo, it is not enough for officials to say that, Panganiban said. The writ compels state agents to look for the missing person. And if the court finds that the officials did not exert enough effort in finding the person, it can hold them liable.

The writ of amparo, however, has not yet been enforced in the country. But Panganiban said it was authorized by the 1987 Constitution when it allowed the Supreme Court to promulgate rules to protect constitutional rights.

The writ of amparo was first instituted in Mexico in 1847. It is recognized in some South American countries and some American states. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

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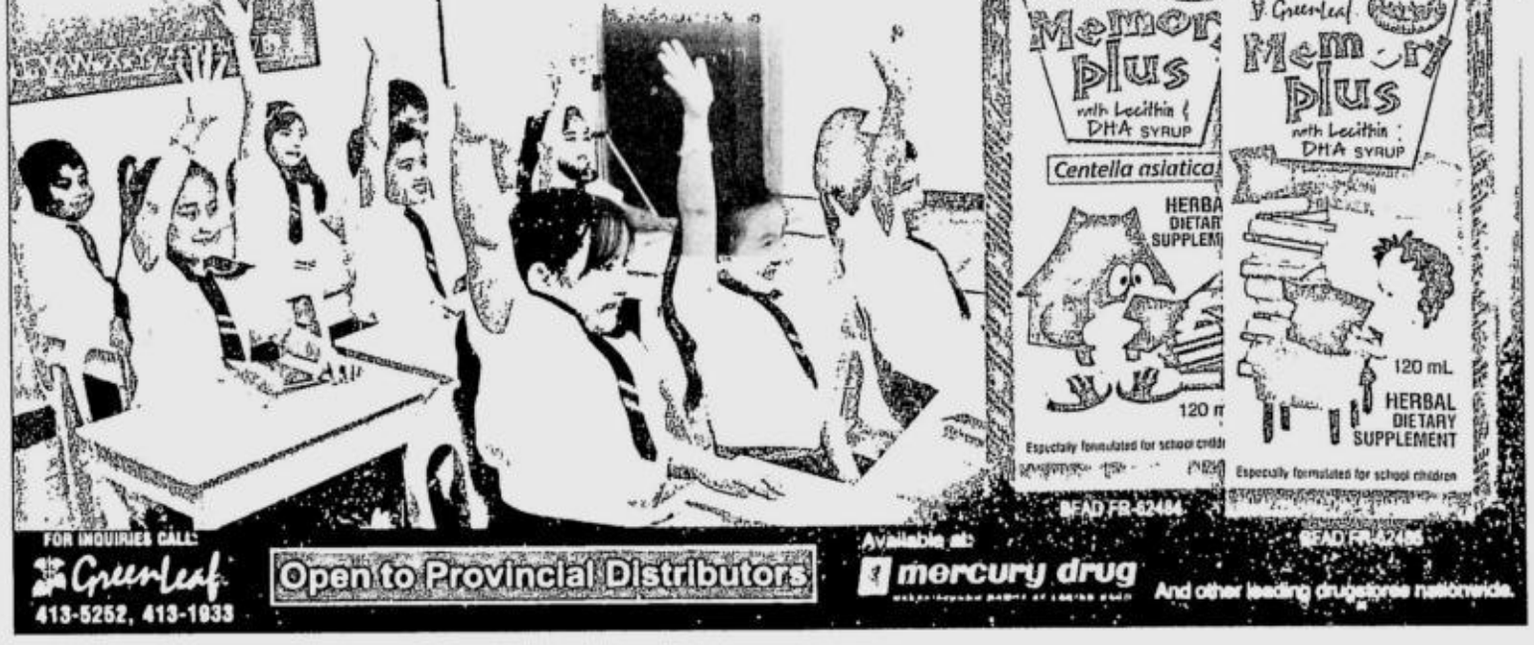

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Puno: Time to use power of judiciary

From page A1

mit on Extrajudicial Killings and Enforced Disappearances—Searching for Solutions.

"Elected officials usually go for what is popular, but the vindication of human rights sometimes demand taking unpopular decisions, especially in instances where, due to technicalities, the right of the righteous is trumped by the rights of the wicked," he told the forum of some 250 delegates and observers, including 28 foreign diplomats and development workers.

"Elected officials sometimes demur in making decisions that will displease their powerful constituencies," the top magistrate noted before the gathering at the Manila Hotel, where a few seats separate human rights advocates and aggrieved parties from the "usual suspects" in the killings—the military and police.

"Elected officials are sometimes more interested in high-profile issues or with greater impact on the larger number of their constituents. Oftentimes, however, human rights cases are low profile especially when they affect the marginalized, or people whose existence some would hardly recognize or worse, people dismissed as invisibles of society," Puno said.

Alluding to the Marcos dictatorship, he recalled how the executive branch could "run roughshod" over human rights while the Legislature could choose to be "powerless" and "default" on its duties to protect those rights.

Revive righteous indignation

The Chief Justice said that if there were compelling reasons for the summit, "one of them is to prevent losing eye contact with these killings and disappearances, revive our righteous indignation, and spur our united search for the elusive solution to this pestering problem."

A video presentation prepared by the Supreme Court cited different figures representing the total number of activists and media practitioners slain under the Arroyo administration.

But one thing was obvious: If all the victims since 2001 were to be gathered in one place, they would far outnumber the summit participants.

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR), for example, placed the number of slain victims at 403 from 2001 to May 31, 2007. Task Force Usig—the Malacañang-created police panel tasked with solving the cases—pegged the total at 115.

The human rights alliance Karapatan reported 863 deaths over the last six years.

Counting slain journalists alone, the CHR said 26 had been killed since 2001; the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility counted 33; while the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines reported 46.

Failure of justice system

Karapatan said there was a failure of the justice system in the hundreds of cases of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances.

Dr. Edelina de la Paz, Karapatan chair, said witnesses were not the only ones that stay away from shedding light on such human rights violations.

Judges and prosecutors also become ineffective in deciding and handling cases of political slays and enforced disappearances because of fear of reprisal from state agents, who may have committed the killings and abductions, according to De la Paz.

For her part, the leader of an NGO seeking justice for victims of forced disappearance pressed President Macapagal-Arroyo to take a "stronger action" against enforced disappearances, and certify as urgent a bill penalizing this crime.

Nilda Lagman-Sevilla, cochair of the Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearances (FIND), asked the President to "sincerely" condemn enforced disappearances, and send a strong message to security forces that she meant business by holding officials accountable.

Sevilla, whose brother, human rights lawyer Hermon Lagman, disappeared during martial law, lamented that the "uphill battle" for justice by the families of the victims had been made "laborious" by the lack of law penalizing the crime of enforced disappearance.

Puno said he called for the summit after observing that the people's "sense of shock has been anaesthetized by the escalation of the killings and disappearances despite the size of the space given to them by the print media.

"If you scratch the surface further, you will discover that a large slice of our people appear to have their concern over these killings and disappearances interred by time," he added.

The summit was aimed at gathering inputs on how the judiciary can expand its role in addressing the spate of unsolved murders and abductions of activists and journalists deemed critical of the government.

Puno earlier spoke in press interviews about possibly reconfiguring the rules of evidence, reviewing the principle of command responsibility, and finding other legal remedies when the writ of habeas corpus proved ineffective in forcing authorities to produce missing persons.

Higher standards

"New rules" and "higher standards" for government agents responsible for solving human rights cases can be formulated by the judiciary, using a power granted by the 1987 Constitution, which the Supreme Court has yet to invoke, he then explained.

"The paucity of power of the judiciary in checking human rights violations was remedied by stretching its rule-making prerogative," he said, referring to Article VIII, Section 5 of the Constitution.

The Charter, he said, was framed by constitutional commissioners who saw how human rights were "trivialized during the authoritarian years" of the Marcos regime.

The framers, with their "bountiful bias in favor of human rights," reexamined the "balance of power" among the three branches of government.

"The reexamination easily revealed that under the then existing balance of power, the Executive, thru the adept deployment of the Commander in Chief, can run roughshod over our human rights, (while) a supine Legislature can betray the human rights of the people by defaulting to enact appropriate laws."

"For there is nothing you can do when Congress exercises its power to be powerless," he noted.

Prophetic eyes

"Our constitutional commissioners were endowed with prophetic eyes," he said. "For two decades later, we would be bedeviled by extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances that would expose the frailties of our freedom, the inadequacy of our laws, if not the inutility of our system of justice."

"Given these vulnerabilities, the judiciary, on its part, has decided to unsheathe its unused power to enact rules to protect the constitutional rights of our people, the first and foremost of which is the right to life itself," he added.

Puno's speech drew generous applause, with at least five delegates giving him a standing ovation.

Outside the Manila Hotel, militant groups, along with relatives and friends of *desaparecidos*, staged a rally supporting the Supreme Court's initiative to find ways in solving the killings and abductions.

At the summit, the head of the CHR advised the government to check violations of human rights and avoid coming under investigation by the United Nations Council for Human Rights.

Ratify international convention

CHR Chair Lourdes Quisumbing said the Philippines should avoid falling under the jurisdiction of the UN Council for Human Rights.

"We should look out for Procedure No. 1503. After examination, the UN Council for Human Rights can put the government under this procedure when it's deemed to commit consistent patterns of gross violations of human rights," she said.

The Procedure affords an individual, a group or an NGO the right to submit a complaint to the UN about sustained, systematic and gross violations of human rights in one of the UN Member States.

Quisumbing urged the government to ratify the newly adopted International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances.

Karapatan recommended 31 procedural changes in the Rules of Court, including the expansion of the powers of the public prosecutor to include ordering the production of documents and making liberal the modes of discovery of evidence including entry into military camps.

Insurance for witnesses

It suggested that life insurance and money be made available to witnesses in political killings and enforced disappearances. It added that sanctuaries be designated for witnesses or families of victims and that the violation of such sanctuaries be deemed contempt of the Supreme Court.

"There are no witnesses willing to testify for fear that they will become the victim. What happened to one of the witnesses of the United Nations special rapporteur on extrajudicial killings Philip Alston in Mindanao is testament enough that such fears are not unfounded," De la Paz said.

"She was killed weeks after her testimony was presented to Mr. Alston," she added.

FIND recommended that the government proscribe an order from a superior or a public authority as a justification for taking part in the commission of enforced disappearance.

Its other recommendations include:

- Require and maintain up to date registers of detainees and prisoners.
- Ensure the right of detainees to notify their families, lawyers and other persons with legitimate interest in their situation.
- Punish government authorities who obstruct and delay investigations and habeas corpus proceedings.
- Preventively suspend persons suspected of committing enforced disappearance.
- Strictly prohibit incommunicado detention and undisclosed places of detention.
- Protect witnesses, lawyers and families of victims against intimidation or ill treatment.
- Provide machinery for victims and their families to seek fair and adequate reparation and redress. *With a report from Tina G. Santos*

High court asked to rule on legality of terror law

From page A1

of several acts punishable under the Revised Penal Code, "thereby sowing and creating a condition of widespread and extraordinary fear and panic among the populace, in order to coerce the government to give in to an unlawful demand."

In the House of Representatives, the day after the law took effect, lawmakers Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna, Crispin Beltran of Anakpawis and Liza Maza of Gabriela filed a bill seeking to repeal it.

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz described the HSA as "very terroristic."

"It appears the law does not address terrorism but instead is the one sowing terror among citizens," Cruz said in an interview over Church-owned Radio Veritas.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan, for his part, found the new antiterrorism law to have "gray areas" such that even government agents could be regarded as "terrorists."

Give it a chance

Defending the HSA, President Macapagal-Arroyo said the law was "more of a legal power" to be used against terrorists, not political foes.

"The Human Security Act gives us the legal power to prosecute those who commit any act of terror on our people," she told Reuters in a one-on-one interview over the weekend.

The President talked about "the use of both the soft and the hard power because we want to remove the breeding grounds and the recruiting grounds of the terrorists."

PNP Director General Oscar Calderon appealed to the public to give the HSA a chance to be implemented, saying it contained enough safeguards protecting civil rights.

The law allows surveillance and wiretapping of private communications of terror suspects, and their detention for three days without charges, according to Calderon.

"But these can only be done provided authority is obtained from the PNP chief, the Anti-Terror Council and the Court of Appeals," Calderon said during the Kapihan sa Maynila media forum at the Manila Hotel.

He wondered why critics were opposing the HSA. "Actually, some policemen claimed it was more of an anti-law enforcer bill because arresting officers could also be fined P500,000 for wrongfully detaining a suspect," he said.

Calderon said the new law was a big boost to the campaign of the police and other agencies against terrorism.

"(O)ur point is that, even granting that there are proper and sufficient human rights safeguards in the law, there is a grave problem in the very definition of the crime, to start with, which the law purportedly seeks to secure the state and protect our people from," said Santos and Southern Hemisphere Engagement Network Inc. in their petition.

Arbitrary definition

The petitioners said the definition of terrorism under the HSA was arbitrary and did not take into consideration the definitions and guidelines on terrorism found in international laws and conventions.

They said the most important international legal elements of terrorism were missing in the HSA, like the fact that the penalized actions were intended to target civilians, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organization to do or abstain from doing a certain task.

Santos and Southern Hemisphere pointed out that the HSA only covered situations of "coerc(ing) the government" and not international organizations. The law also does not cover a situation in which the purpose is to intimidate or spread terror among the population.

Under the HSA, the creation of a condition of widespread fear and panic among the populace was only to coerce the government to agree to an unlawful demand, they said.

"And so, if we refer to the full title of the HSA, it might only 'secure the state' but not 'protect our people from terrorism.' One might therefore raise here a constitutional question of equal protection of the law. Surely, the people, as much as the state, deserve to be secure from terrorism," they said.

Without unlawful demand

The petitioners also claimed that the wording of the definition could be counterproductive in protecting the state and the people.

"What if there is no 'unlawful demand?'" they asked, adding that no demands whatsoever were made during the Sept. 11 attacks, and the bombings in Bali, of the SuperFerry 14 in the Philippines, the Madrid train station, and London subway.

"And what if the demand is lawful, like, say, the right of self-determination of the Bangsamoro people? Will bombings of the civilian populace to coerce the government to give in to this lawful demand no longer be considered terrorism?" they said.

The petitioners also warned that the definition of terrorism would give state agents too much leeway in enforcing it.

"Because the HSA's definition of the crime of terrorism is flawed, it violates due process for failure in effect to accord all concerned fair notice of what is prohibited. It thus leaves law enforcers unbridled discretion in carrying out its provisions and becomes an arbitrary flexing of the government muscle," Santos and Southern Hemisphere said.

Wrong solution

The petitioners also said the HSA's policy statement of making terrorism a crime against humanity was confusing the two crimes and could give rise to the wrong solution being imposed.

"We might say that each diagnosis or disease has its corresponding treatment or medicine. That is why we should not confuse different classes of crimes—lest we take the wrong legal action, like when common crimes are charged for what are really political offenses," they said.

Crimes against humanity do not include the purpose of intimidating a population or coercing a government to do an act, and also state that such acts should be "widespread and systematic," a qualification not included in terrorism's definition, they said.

The petitioner also said the title of the antiterror law was deceptive because counterterrorism was just one side of human security.

Protecting only the state

Based on the United Nations Development Program, human security encompasses the "security of real people" and consists of freedom from fear, want and humiliation. But the petitioners said the definition of terrorism appeared to protect only the state.

"To project counterterrorism as human security is not only deceptive to our people but also dishonest as a misappropriation of a concept currently associated with the UNDP, the independent global Commission for Human Security and the Human Security Network of countries," they said.

They also warned that this would have negative effects on peace talks.

"There is a danger now with the HSA that such human security and peace efforts of the UNDP and Mindanao peace advocates will become associated with counterterrorism, which would be unfair to those efforts," they said. *With reports from Tina G. Santos, Jerome Aning and Mchael Lim Ubac*

Anti-Red paper called for antiterror act

From page A1

tions, military units were deployed not only in the countryside but also in key cities where Bayan Muna and its allied party-list groups had established propaganda groups. The areas included urban poor communities in Metro Manila.

Militant groups claimed that the military units conducted a campaign that vilified Bayan Muna and threatened those who support it and allied party-list groups.

This proposal was included in the October 2003 confidential study, "The Strategic and Tactical Activities of the CPP-NPA-NDF in the White Area," which was prepared by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Special Concerns.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales was the adviser for special concerns at the time.

"Special operations shall be conducted to support active and passive government initiatives to neutralize the CPP-NPA-NDF," the proposal said.

The New People's Army (NPA) is the armed wing of the CPP, while the National Democratic Front (NDF) is its political arm.

The proposal neither specified how the groups would be "neutralized" nor did it say if the personalities who would be neutralized should be armed or unarmed.

Many of those on the list of more than 800 victims of alleged extrajudicial killings were unarmed NDF "consultants" in the stalled peace negotiations, said the human rights group Karapatan.

At the political and executive levels, the paper proposed that Ms Arroyo establish "strong partnership with local government units and members of Congress."

One of the objectives mentioned for such a partnership was to form "counter organization activities against national democrat-affiliated groups of both legal and underground nature in affected areas.

"(This is) to win the support of the broad, mass-based and largely unorganized members of the populace to the side of the government," the proposal read.

Pro-Palace party-list groups

Related to this is a proposal on mass-based operations, hence, "(the) formation of counter-organizations at barangay, municipality and provincial levels to counter the local communist movement and Bayan Muna grass-roots formations."

On the legislative front, it was proposed that political parties be strengthened to counter the parliamentary activities of Bayan Muna and other left-leaning party-list groups in the House of Representatives.

"(They should) consolidate their strength and voting power on insurgency-related issues or other issues that can politically strengthen the CPP-NPA-NDF through Bayan Muna," the paper said.

It also encouraged "traditional political parties to intensify party organization and education down to the barangay level."

Just before the start of the election campaign early this year, the party-list group Akbayan raised the alarm over the fielding of party-list groups allegedly supported by Malacañang.

Palparan's Bantay

One such alleged Malacañang front is the party-list group Bantay whose first nominee is retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, who is accused by Bayan Muna of masterminding the killings of many leftist activists in the areas where he was assigned—Oriental Mindoro, Eastern Visayas and Central Luzon.

"Many counterinsurgency campaign plans have been devised and implemented but have always been bound to fail due to lack of concrete and decisive socio-economic programs and political will to implement them," the proposal said in promoting a holistic government approach to the insurgency problem.

Coup de grâce

"One of the glaring pitfalls in all these plans was the failure to utilize and optimize government resources and machinery that could have delivered the coup de grâce and ultimately address the root causes of insurgency," the paper said.

"This proposed plan attempts to provide an alternative solution or mixture of alternative courses of action for the government," it added.

Drafted at a time when the peace process with the government was still ongoing, the proposal said the negotiations should be pursued aggressively with the CPP-NPA-NDF.

It also encouraged peace initiatives with local units of the communist insurgency.

Antiterror bill

The proposal called for the passage of the antiterrorism bill as a means to further control the insurgency.

"(The law) can serve as a legal measure to address internal security problems like subversion and terrorism," it said.

(The Human Security Act of 2007, also known as the antiterror law, took effect on July 15.)

The proposal also called for the creation of special courts against insurgents and terrorists as well as the strengthening of the witness protection and amnesty programs.

Special ops vs CPP officials

One of the last recommendations of the proposal was the launching of special operations to neutralize "high-ranking" officials of the CPP-NPA-NDF.

"Conduct ... special operations like the neutralization of top-ranking members of the CPP-NPA-NDF; creating organizational rifts; and operations that will force them to take mainstream politics that will entail arms demobilization," it said.

While involved in the parliamentary struggle, Bayan Muna has has yet to renounce the armed component of the national democratic movement in the country.

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Media killings getting bolder, summit told

By Norman Bordadora

THE ASSASSINATION ON INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT Delfin Mallari Jr., in March was an attack that shows the increased audacity of journalist killers in the country, an expert on the media told the summit on extrajudicial killings yesterday.

Prof. Luis Teodoro, a former dean of the UP College of Mass Communication and a director of the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility, said Mallari's shooting during the election period was the first attack on a journalist connected with a national media organization.

"Before the attempt on the life of the PDI correspondent, the CMFR found that the attacks (since 2001) were solely on community journalists who are not affiliated with a national media organization," Teodoro said.

Teodoro was the presenter on the trends of media killings since 2001 at the National Consultative Summit on Extrajudicial Killings and Enforced Disappearances yesterday.

He said CMFR, a group devoted to the promotion of press freedom in the country, monitored 33 journalists' killings since 2001.

"There's only one killing this year. But the year is not yet over," Teodoro said.

Aside from being affiliated with a Metro Manila-based national daily, Mallari's shooting followed the pattern of a usual attack on journalist.

"Most of them received death threats and did not do anything about it. Majority or 22 out of 28 slain media practitioners were killed in their homes or near their offices," Teodoro said.

Mallari survived two gunshot wounds while on his way to a local radio station for a regular program. He said he received death threats and maintains that a Quezon politician was behind the attack.

JOURNALISTS keep watch outside the Comelec office in Intramuros, Manila. REM ZAMORA

Teodoro said it was disheartening to note that out of the 33 deaths since 2001 only five cases against suspected perpetrators have been filed in court.

He said that out of the 33 suspects in the killings of journalists, five were from local government units while the rest were either policemen or soldiers.

"This does not indicate an official policy to kill journalists," Teodoro said.

"We think that the killings are mostly unsystematic but they developed a tendency to kill than go to government bodies to seek redress," he added.

Another statistic Teodoro cited was that 20 out of the 33 journalists killed were attacked due to "work-related" motives.

Teodoro said that being work-related means the attack was made in connection with an issue the journalist was covering and that he or she was known in his community as a journalist.

"This includes cases when there are reports about the victims' lack of professionalism as media practitioners or that they are corrupt," Teodoro said.

"We mention this because (some sectors) seemingly justify the killings of journalists because they are perceived to be corrupt. We say this (factor) is not relevant," he added.

Gov's hands seen in bid to soften Mallari case

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—Former Quezon Representative and newly elected Governor Rafael Nantes has been talking to several senior government and police officials to "influence" the ongoing investigation on the foiled slay try on Lucena-based INQUIRER reporter Delfin Mallari Jr., a senior police official said Monday.

The police official said Nantes, who Mallari accused of masterminding his April 19 ambush, was "serious in pressuring" officials involved in the case just to have the criminal cases filed against the two supposed perpetrators dropped.

The INQUIRER source said the governor even met with a very influential secretary of a government agency to help him talk with the investigators assigned to the case.

The official agreed to divulge this information to the INQUIRER on condition that his name be withheld as he fears reprisal from the politician and other ranking police officers.

"Since a month ago, Nantes has been meeting with influential government officials, including a very powerful Cabinet secretary, just to have the criminal cases rebuffed at the prosecutor's office in Lucena. He also wants the police to remove his name from the investigation," the official said in an interview.

"But I can't take what he's doing. He's really bullying us. He's throwing his weight around like a street bully. Apparently, he doesn't have any respect for the police organization," the INQUIRER source added.

Records show that the police filed frustrated murder charges against a certain Renato "Boying" Sudla and Armando "Dodong" Encanto, both from Quezon province.

Sudla is the supposed gunman while Encanto allegedly drove the motorcycle used in the ambush.

The suspects, both in their 50s, are said to be close to Nantes and belong to the same fraternity as the governor, the Tau Gamma Phi Fraternity.

Encanto even served as one of Nantes' coordinators during the last elections, the source said.

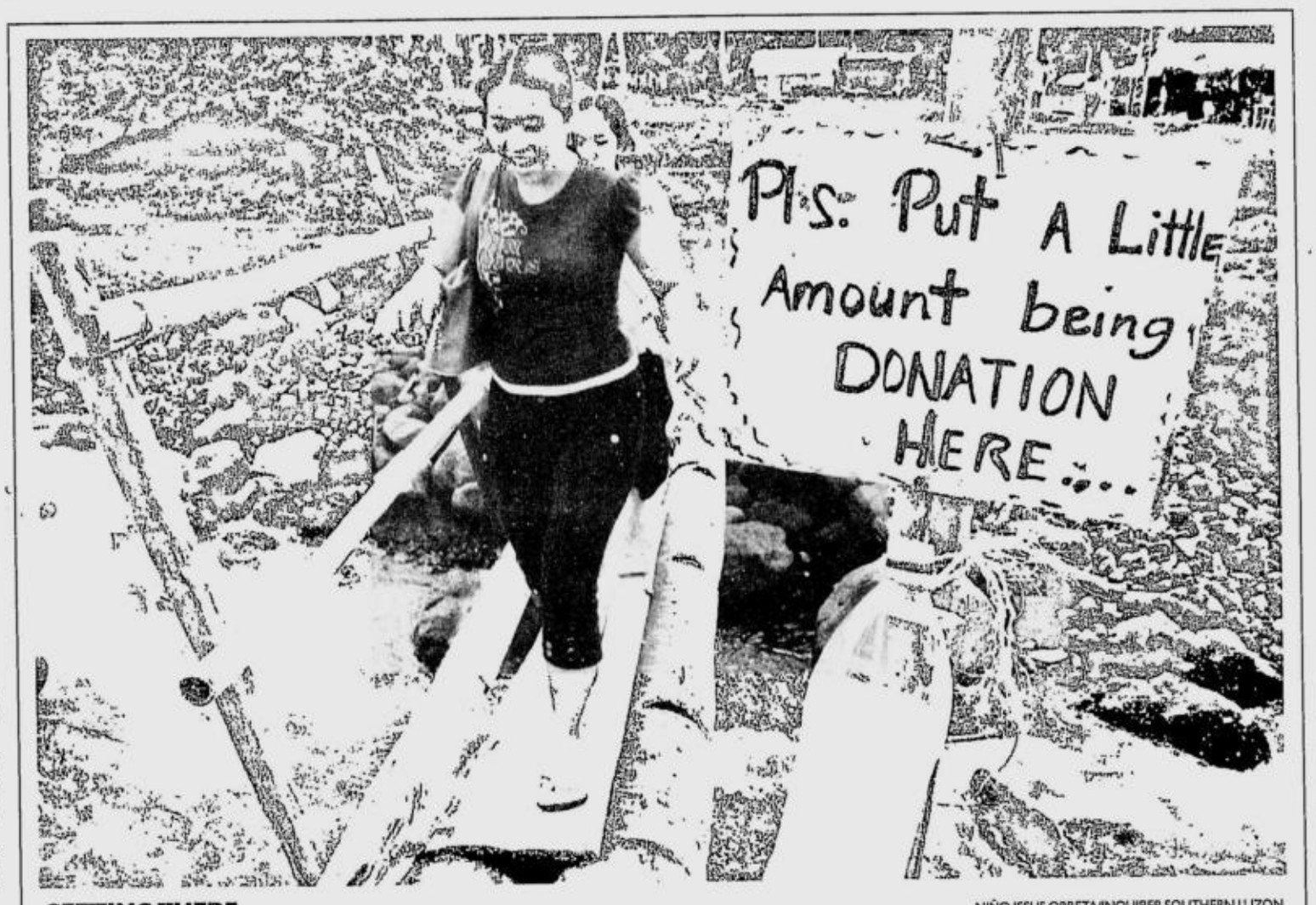
The INQUIRER tried to contact Nantes but he did not answer calls and text messages on his mobile phone.

The source said Nantes' acts only bolstered suspicions that he indeed had a hand in the assassination attempt on Mallari.

Nantes has filed six counts of libel against Mallari for linking him to the ambush. The case is with the prosecutor's office of Quezon City.

Also named respondent in the cases was dzMM reporter Johnny Glorioso who was with Mallari at the time of the ambush.

The cases stemmed from the special editions of the weekly tabloid Ang Dyaryo Natin where Mallari served as editor in chief and Glorioso as publisher. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*



GETTING THERE NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Tourists going to the Cagsawa Ruins in Barangay Busay, Daraga, Albay would have to cross this improvised bridge made of coconut tree trunk after the road leading to the historical site was destroyed by Supertyphoon "Reming" in November last year.

Turnout heavy for new voter registration

CEBU CITY—THE YOUTH CAME in droves to the offices of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) starting Sunday to register for the Sangguniang Kabataan and barangay elections in October.

The heavy turnout of new registrants brought disorder to the two Comelec offices in Cebu City since Sunday.

The Comelec gave priority to hundreds of registrants on Sunday and asked them to return on Monday after 5 p.m. after election officers saw they could not accommodate them all until 7 p.m. Sunday.

Marchel Sarno, Cebu City north district election officer, yesterday said eight days were insufficient to accommodate the registrants. The registration period was scheduled July 15-22.

He said the Comelec expected at least 12,000 applicants in one district alone, but the lack of machines could lead to the registration of only half that number.

The Comelec has been announcing the new registration period in newspaper ads.

On Sunday, over 1,000 people lined up to register for the barangay elections, but only 500 were registered. The same situation was true in the south district.

As of yesterday noon, around 700 to 800 people have again lined up and Sarno said he would again issue priority numbers for them to return the following day.

Last Sunday, more than a 100 registrants queued at the Maasin City Comelec office as early as 6:30 a.m. for the first day of registration.

Mostly first time voters, teenagers milled around a single table, manned by two Comelec personnel. *Jani Arnaiz, Joey A. Gabieta, Kit Bagaipo, Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Carla P. Gomez, Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas Bureau*

Comelec loses machine for new voter list-up

COTABATO CITY—OFFICES OF the Commission on Elections (Comelec) appear to have become the favorite target of thieves these days.

After Maguindanao elections supervisor Lintang Bedol's claim that election documents were stolen from his office in Shariff Aguak town, Comelec officials in the city said they also lost important equipment.

The equipment—a biometrics capturing machine—is so important its disappearance could affect or delay the conduct of registration of voters for the barangay elections.

Arlan Mangelen, city elections officer, said on Monday that office workers didn't know when the machine was actually taken from the office.

But he said the loss was discovered on July 9.

Mangelen said unless the machine is found or a replacement arrives, the registration of voters here might have to be postponed or delayed.

The Comelec requires youth, 15 years old and above, to register for the barangay elections—which also included the Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

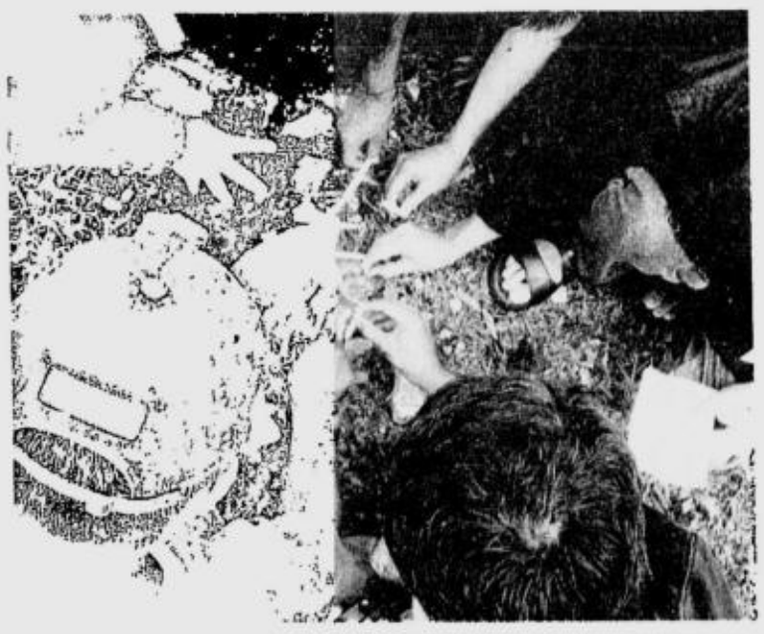
Also, youth who have just turned 18 after the May 14 elections are also required to register before they can vote in any elections.

Asked if there was a possibility a new machine would arrive soon, Mangelen said it depends on the main Comelec office in Manila.

He said they have already requested for a replacement machine but so far, no word about it has reached them yet.

The Comelec hasn't made any statement on who could be behind the theft of Bedol's documents. *Charlie Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

Workers at ruined hotel recall 1990 Baguio earthquake



FORMER Hyatt employees, who survived the July 16, 1990 earthquake that toppled their building like a pack of cards, all returned to the site of the disaster for the first time on Monday. VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—ABOUT 100 FORmer employees of the Hyatt Terraces Baguio here reunited for the first time on Monday inside the compound of their old work place to remember their co-workers and the people who died during the July 16, 1990 earthquake.

The shattered Hyatt provided the country the most recognizable image of the disaster caused by the magnitude 7.7 earthquake that hit Northern Luzon 17 years ago.

Every former employee who walked through the old Hyatt entrance again evoked mixed emotions.

Heinrich Maulbecker, Hyatt's former general manager who lost his wife to the tragedy, was distressed when he saw reporters covering the reunion.

"This is a private affair," said Maulbecker, who spent days at the hotel compound waiting for rescue teams to recover his wife, Daisy.

Rolando Senen Jr., a former Hyatt maintenance engineer who now moves around in a wheelchair, struggled to maneuver up the unpaved and rocky Hyatt driveway to join the reunion.

Senen said he stayed behind after the dust cleared to help in the rescue effort in 1990.

For most, the memorial was a family reunion, said Hermie Samuel, who used to work in the hotel's service department.

A former employee showed up carrying containers of home cooked meals and started greeting everyone like long-lost relatives.

"For many of us, this is the first time we actually saw each other again [since the tragedy]. Only a few remained in Baguio to work. Many went abroad," said Gerry Beltran, now a hotel manager.

Denise Molintas, a *balikbayan*, said she lobbied to get a reunion organized inside the compound, "because it was never done before."

"People immediately swarmed in [on Sunday] when we started fixing up so I had to politely turn them away. They thought it was a cool site to take photographs," she said.

Baguio Leisure Corp. used to own the Hyatt Terraces here but had sold what remained of the asset to a developer, shortly after losing a P15-million insurance claim in a lawsuit that reached the Court of Appeals.

Baguio assistant prosecutor Gloria Agunos, Hyatt's former personnel manager, said the new owners had decided to sell the property again because they did not find it to be profitable.

The former employees who finally saw the hotel compound after 17 years found a grassy knoll surrounded by pine trees. A dead tree remains in the middle of the field.

Even a group of Hyatt survivors, who decided to stay in the city, was surprised by the rustic scene that met them on Monday, said Beltran.

This group has been keeping the memory of the tragedy alive by offering candles and flowers for those who died in the earthquake outside the property's gates.

The city has records identifying more than 200 people who died during the earthquake, but it estimates that over 1,000 more remain unidentified and unaccounted for.

Agunos said 30 Hyatt employees and about 50 hotel guests died when the Hyatt apartelle crashed into the main hotel building.

The group expected 200 people to attend a whole day affair, Beltran said.

"The quake made us bond together," said Teddy Domingues, an employee of the Camp John Hay Manor who was former Hyatt room boy.

S. Korea apologizes

By Tarra Quismundo and Jerome Aning

SOUTH KOREA YESTERDAY APOlogized to the Department of Foreign Affairs for suspending the issuance of visas to Filipinos without first informing the DFA.

Summoned to the foreign office was South Korea Consul General Hong Sungmog, who said his action was prompted by "an extraordinary number" of reports that local immigration officials had been extorting money from Koreans coming to the Philippines.

"I thought this was a minor issue and it would have been contained between [our] embassy and the immigration [bureau] ... It got out of hand. I was sorry and it was my mismanagement," Hong told reporters after an hour-long meeting with Assistant Secretary for Asia Pacific Affairs Romeo Manalo.

Hong said the suspension of visa issuance would remain until steps were taken to act on the extortion complaints.

However, the suspension would not cover the annual government-to-government hiring quota of 10,000 Filipino workers for jobs in Korea.

There are currently 50,000 Filipino workers in Korea, of which 15,000 are undocumented, according to Hong.

In a related development, the Bureau of Immigration yesterday ordered an investigation into reports of alleged harassment and extortion by immigration officials of South Koreans in the country.

"Very serious" was how Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan described the allegations and complaints from the Korean Embassy, which suspended the issuance of work visas to overseas Filipinos going to Korea allegedly in retaliation for immigration agents' alleged extortion of money from Koreans. *With an AFP report*

OVERSEAS JOBS. Vice President Noli de Castro cut the ribbon opening for Inquirer's Job Market Overseas Career Expo 2007 at SM Mall of Asia yesterday. In photo are Inquirer president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez and son Ben, and other government, private firm and Inquirer officers. EUGENE ARANETA/CONTRIBUTOR

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DID YOU KNOW

EQUITABLE PCI Bank, the product of a merger between Equitable Banking Corp. and the Philippine Commercial International Bank in 2000, was named one of the strongest private banks in the country by Standard and Poor's and Moody's Investor Service. As of September 2006, Equitable PCI Bank, with head offices in Makati City, had 408 branches and 658 automated teller machines.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

TV host may face spouse abuse raps

Bail recommended for Willie; petition for review expected

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE QUEZON CITY PROSECUTOR's Office has found probable cause in the criminal complaint filed against television host Willie Revillame by his wife, Floralice "Liz" Almoro, who accused him of displaying violent behavior toward her and their son.

Assistant City Prosecutor Gibson Araula Jr. said the evidence on record was "sufficient to indict Revillame" for violation of Republic Act No. 9262, or the law protecting women and children from violence.

Araula recommended a bail of P12,000 for Revillame. The court was scheduled to be raffled off yesterday afternoon to the court that would hear it. Contacted for comment, Revillame's lawyer, Raymond Fortun, said they intend to file a petition for review in the QC Prosecutor's Office within 15 days.

In his resolution issued July 6, Araula said, "The sufferings, mental anguish, public ridicule and humiliation experienced by the complainant due to the behavior of respondent are sufficient to establish a probable

TV HOST/ A18

RYAN LIM

REVILLAME: Probable cause

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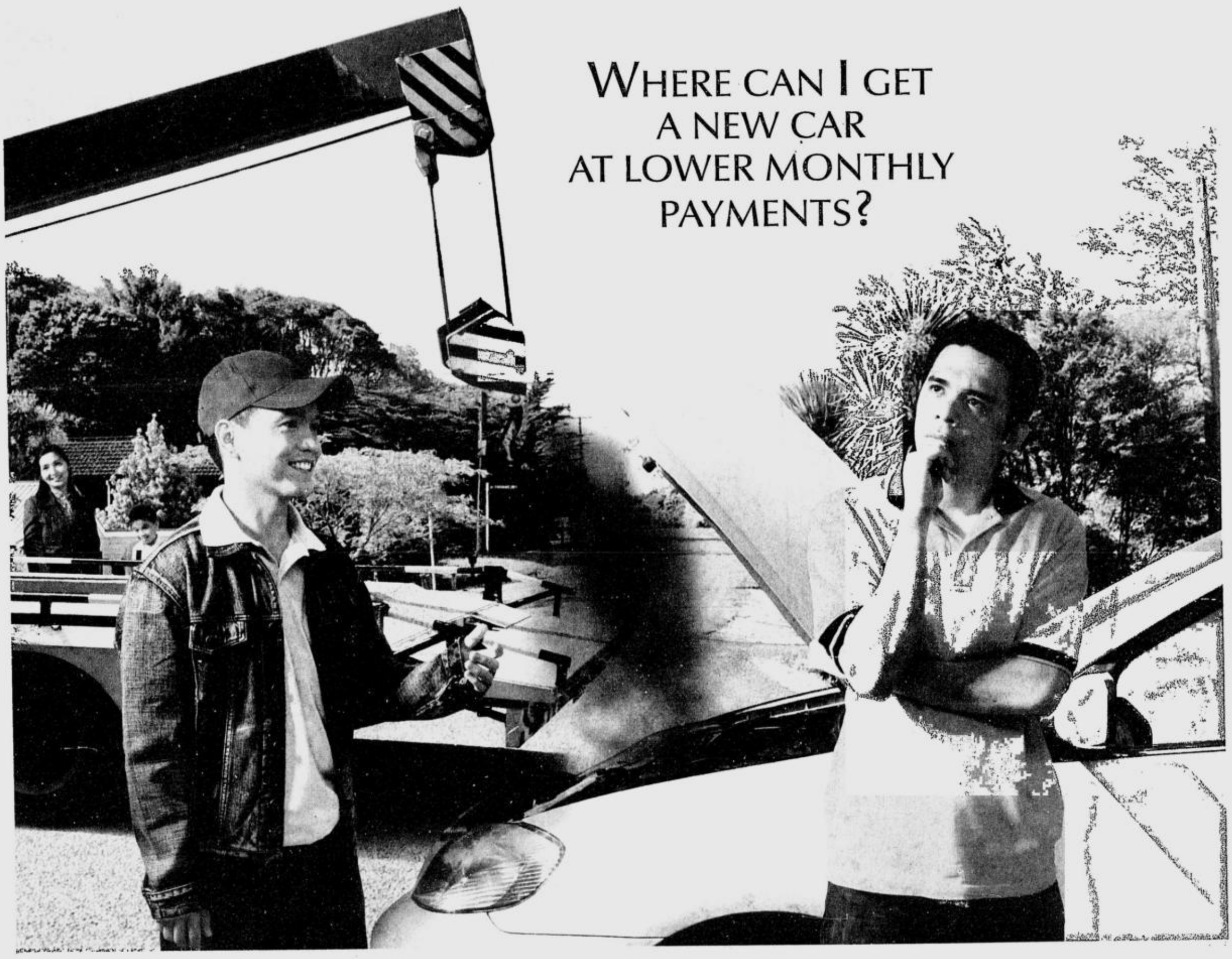

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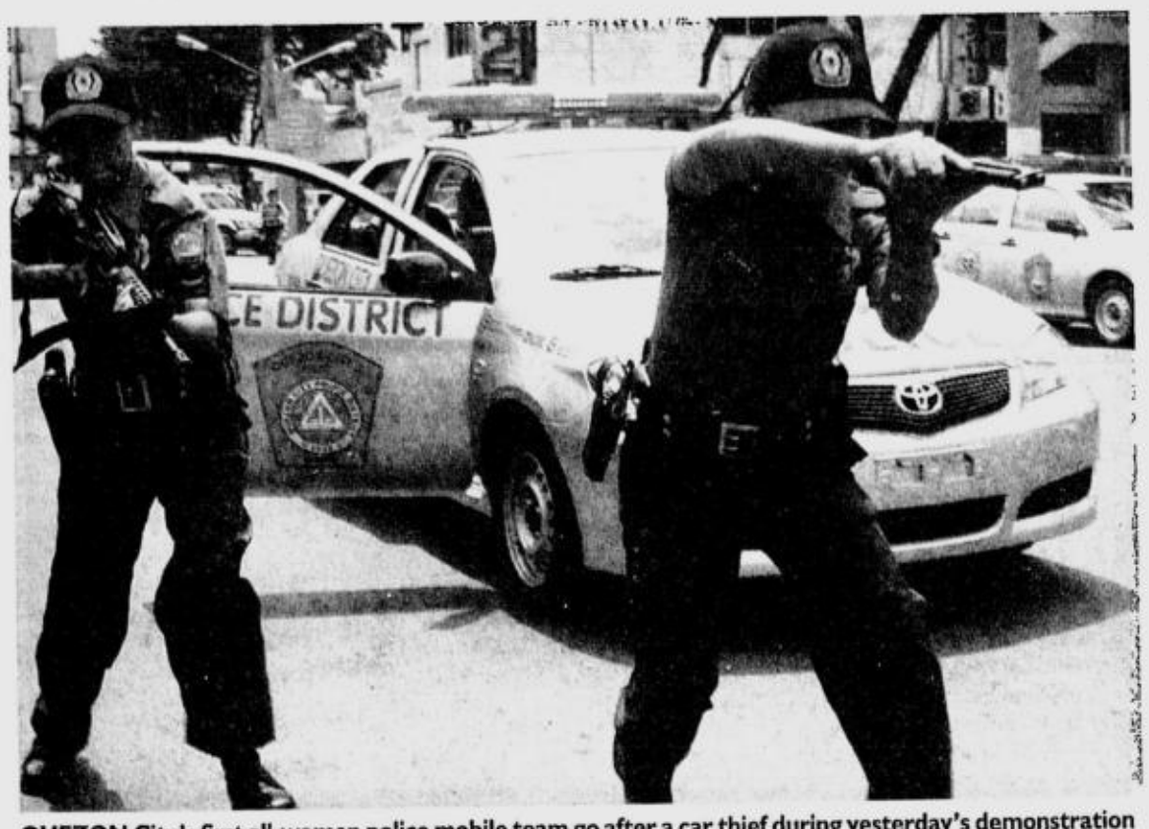


QUEZON City's first all-women police mobile team go after a car thief during yesterday's demonstration of their anticrime skills. The team was deployed to the crime-prone area of Cubao. JOAN BONDOC

From desk jobs to street watch for 'Charlie's Angels'

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE QUEZON CITY POLICE DISTRICT yesterday deployed its own version of "Charlie's Angels"—a three-women police team—to the notoriously crime-prone area of Cubao, as part of its program to reintegrate females in the field.

"Charlie's Angels" was a popular American TV show in the '70s which featured three policewomen who did undercover work.

QCPD director Senior Supt. Magtanggol Gatdula said the deployment of the district's first Women Mobile Patrol Unit composed of PO1 Teresa Mones, PO1 Amylou Cabuso and PO1 Emily Lacson—members of the QCPD Special Weapons and Tactics team—is just a test run.

"If their deployment is successful, more policewomen will be fielded with the mobile patrol units soon," Gatdula said, pointing out that the project is intended to gradually include policewomen assigned to administrative jobs to engage in field work to make full use of the entire QCPD force.

Of the city's 2,700 law enforcers, 177 are women.

QCPD public information office head, Supt. Asprinio Cabula, said that prior to their deployment, the three policewomen underwent a monthlong training program, including driving lessons and standard operating procedures in conducting patrol duty.

Cabula said the next challenge would be to convince women, who have been holding desk jobs for a long time, to do field work.

METROBRIEFS

Cops looking for 2 men in shooting incident

POLICE are looking for two of three men who went on a shooting spree on a narrow street in a densely populated area in Malabon City before midnight yesterday. PO2 Damaso Gayatao of the city police said the suspects, who were armed with handguns and a samurai, went to Dulong Hernandez in Barangay Catmon at around 11:15 p.m. on Sunday, and fired their guns indiscriminately, hitting two residents in the area identified as Romeo Cabading, 27, and Jonathan Tapia, 16. The victims, who were hit in the hips and legs, are now confined at the Manila Central University Hospital. Gayatao said Cabading was probably the suspects' target because they "threatened to hack residents they met on the street who refused to tell them where the victim was." One of the suspects, Cris Castro, 19, was arrested by responding policemen while the two others escaped.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Lim bans students from computer shops

MANILA Mayor Alfredo Lim yesterday banned students from playing video games in computer shops during school hours. He issued the order after the Parents-Teachers Community Association, representing teachers and parents of students in the city's public elementary and high schools, complained that some computer shops were encouraging students to skip classes by allowing them to play addictive video games, even during class hours. Lim said he would study the possibility of regulating the shops' operations so that students would be banned inside these establishments from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Allison W. Lopez

Task force, desk to handle bank robs set up

By Kristine L. Alave

AFTER RECEIVING COMPLAINTS from officials about the police's failure to go after bank robbers, the National Capital Region Police Office has ordered the creation of a task force to speed up the investigation of these cases.

In his order dated July 6, NCRPO chief, Deputy Director General Reynaldo Varilla, directed all police districts in Metro Manila to put up a desk that would concentrate on bank robbery cases and go after the suspects involved in these illegal activities.

He also ordered the activation of the Joint Anti-Bank Robbery Special Operations Task Force that would oversee the police desks.

According to Varilla, he issued the order after a meeting last June 29 among NCRPO top officials, bank security managers and members of the Joint Anti-Bank Robbery Action Committee.

During the meeting, bank officials reportedly expressed their dismay over the failure of police authorities to pursue cases and arrest the suspects of bank robberies.

Chief Supt. Luizo Ticman, Eastern Police District director, told the INQUIRER they have already set up desks in police stations and assigned officials to the task force.

He added that they have also been coordinating with bank representatives and local government officials to improve security in banks. According to Ticman, he has urged bank officials to install indoor and outdoor close circuit televisions to monitor the exits and entrances.

In the past few months, several daring bank heists have taken place, including a holdup inside SM Fairview in Quezon City the robbing of an armored van of the Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. in Makati City.

Siblings pay price for keeping silent

By Kristine L. Alave

FOR FAILING TO DISCLOSE THE whereabouts of their mother to their angry father, Jaena Macapagal, 22, and her brother, Jemar, 19, paid for their silence with their lives.

Antipolo City police said the two were shot dead by their father, Juanito, 53, after a disagreement about their mother, Arabella, who left him.

Juanito immediately killed himself after shooting his two children, Supt. Danilo Macerin, city police chief, said.

Investigators said the murder-suicide incident occurred at about 10:30 p.m. Sunday at the victims' house in Purok Sumulong, Barangay Dela Paz, Antipolo City.

According to the police report, a drunken Juanito confronted his two children about the whereabouts of their mother, who left him last month, for being abusive toward her.

Jemar and Jaena both denied knowing where their mother was, which drove their father mad, the report noted, citing a neighbor's account. Juanito then took out his 9 mm pistol and shot his two children. He then killed himself, police said.

Churchgoer stabs 5 after listening to sermon

By DJ Yap

FIVE MEMBERS OF A PROTESTANT church in Taguig City, including its pastor, were stabbed by a 27-year-old man, who found the sermon last Sunday objectionable, according to the police.

The victims were rushed to the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Pasay City and were in stable condition, though three remained under observation as of yesterday.

Still confined are Susie de Asis, 30, and Emelita Dominguez, 47, both vendors, and Jonathan Marquez, 23, a church worker. The other two, Pastor Armando de Vera, 49, and Rosalinda Decena, 55, also a vendor, have already checked out of the hospital.

The suspect, Jerry Relacion, a jobless man, was arrested but not before taking a beating from a mob who chased him after the attack, the police said.

The incident occurred on Sunday noon as the members of Jesus King of Glory Christian Church at Purok 4, Bagong Tanyag in Taguig City were talking after the worship service, investigators said.

Chief Insp. Celso Rodriguez, the head of the criminal and investigation division, said Relacion, wielding an ice pick, suddenly began running after De Vera and the people around him.

He stabbed the five in various parts of the body before trying to flee. But the people who saw what happened blocked his path and repeatedly punched and kicked him, Rodriguez said.

In the official report, the Taguig police listed the motive behind the stabbing as "differences in religious belief/faith."

Case investigator PO1 Melvin Garcia said the suspect listened to the sermon and was angered after hearing the pastor's words.

"He kept saying that the pastor was wrong," he told the INQUIRER.

TV host may face . . . From page A17

cause of violation of Section 5 of R.A. 9262 against (Revillame)."

He added, "The respondent is the husband of the complainant; the latter should have not filed a serious complaint against her husband if the same is not true."

The assistant city prosecutor also noted that the filing of the complaint did not only affect the complainant's marriage "but her family itself."

In the complaint she filed in October 2006, Almoro claimed Revillame threatened to hurt her and their son during one of their fights. The incident occurred on Aug. 6 inside their house at Ayala Heights Village in Quezon City, the document quoted Almoro as saying.

According to the complaint, Almoro said she was just asking Revillame whether there was anything wrong when he started hurling invectives at her and throwing his arms about, hitting their baby who was sleeping in a playpen.

At one point, the TV host allegedly grabbed their baby from her and threatened to hurt her, before he eventually calmed down and left the house, the document added.

Araula noted that one of the incidents was witnessed by actress Maricel Laxa, who executed a sworn statement to substantiate Almoro's allegation.

The assistant city prosecutor also cited how the respondent left Almoro and their son at a beach house in Batangas for five days after the stampede at the PhilSports Arena in February last year.

Revillame had denied the charges, and stressed that he was an "exemplary husband and a provider" despite Almoro's "explosive moods and hurtful tirades." *With Marinel Cruz*

Judge junks libel case filed by Arroyo vs Tulfos

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A QUEZON CITY JUDGE HAS dismissed the libel case filed against the Tulfo brothers by Jose Miguel Arroyo, husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo, a month after the complainant expressed disinterest in pursuing it.

"Considering the affidavit of desistance (affirming) that the complainant is no longer interested in the further prosecution of the case as jointly moved by the private and public prosecutors, this case is dismissed," Judge Ralph Lee of the QC RTC Branch 83 said in his order.

Lee also directed that the P30,000 total cash bond posted by Ramon, Raffy and Erwin Tulfo be returned to them.

In his affidavit of desistance, Arroyo indicated that he had recently suffered a life-threatening medical condition and "miraculously survived" with the prayers and support of his family and friends.

"Because I have been generously given a second lease on life, I have decided to forgive everyone who has caused me pain. I am no longer interested in pursing the case (against Ramon, Raffy and Erwin Tulfo)," Arroyo said in his affidavit. Arroyo filed the case against the Tulfo brothers last year, accusing them of conspiring with one another to publish malicious allegations against him in the tabloid, People's Journal.

Arroyo said the Tulfo brothers had accused him as instrumental in the cancellation of their television program "Isumbong Mo" on RPN 9 last August.

New equipment to enhance cops' shooting skills

By Allison W. Lopez

MANILA POLICEMEN CAN NOW hone their target-shooting skills after they were given laser-beaming equipment for their own use.

The Manila Police District (MPD) yesterday received 10 of the Beam Hit 110 Laser Marksmanship System, which costs P300,000 each, from Benjamin Fernandez, president of Hi Tech Ventures.

The donation was made possible by Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, who commented during a visit on June 30 to the Special Weapons and Tactics Unit firing range on the poor shooting skills of some policemen, resulting in the death of some civilians during operations.

Lim, a former MPD chief, said that law enforcers with poor marksmanship abilities should just stay behind their desks to prevent these incidents.

MPD public information office head, Senior. Insp. Roma Geronimo, said that apart from improving proficiency and accuracy in target-shooting, the marksmanship system was also a money saver because no bullets were necessary during practice.

"It's a do-it-yourself system. The equipment can also be hand-carried, so it may be utilized in other firing ranges," she said.

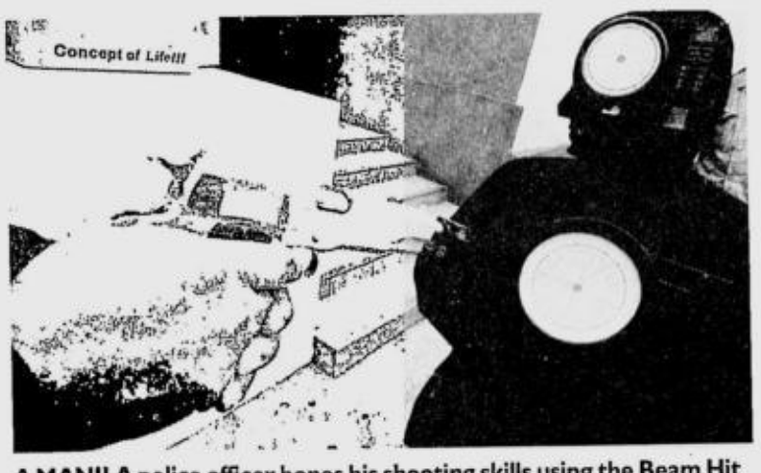
Officers are expected to use their own service firearms in the "dry firing (shooting without bullets)."

Instead of bullets, the guns will fire a laser beam once a chip is attached to their barrels.

Shooters will aim at a target which is equipped with electronic sensors to detect where the beams hit.

Policemen can later get a printed copy of the results of their firing exercise to determine how well or how poorly they did.

The MPD is reportedly the only city police force equipped with the high-tech system that helps improve target-shooting skills.



A MANILA police officer hones his shooting skills using the Beam Hit 110 Laser Marksmanship System, a computerized shooting training system which uses lasers instead of bullets. REM ZAMORA

No monopoly of savagery and barbarity

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

WHY ARE HUMAN RIGHTS groups and activists quiet over the massacre, beheading and mutilation of Marines in Basilan?

Their silence is deafening.

When the military commits a mistake, these groups raise a ruckus. They stage rallies that block traffic and even clash with the police to dramatize their sentiments.

I'm not saying that they're wrong in condemning the abuses committed by men in uniform. Far from it.

They should also denounce the human rights abuses perpetrated by the New People's Army, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), and the Abu Sayyaf.

In short, they should not take sides.

* * *

There's a joke that when communist or Moro rebels or sympathizers are killed by government troops, it's a human rights issue.

But when government soldiers are killed, "it's all right."

Human rights groups and individuals only see the abuses by government troops, but overlook those committed by their "friends."

And so, the joke is not funny at all.

* * *

Now that the "dogs of war"—as a Marine general once described his men—have been unleashed against the barbarians who desecrated their dead comrades, one can't imagine the manner of vengeance on the captured perpetrators.

During the battle for the capture of the MILF's Camp Abubakar in Cotabato in 2000, two Middle-Eastern Caucasians, suspected to be Afghans, wandered into a Marine position and asked how they could get back to their comrades, the MILF rebels. They were buried alive by the Marines.

I got the story from a Marine who took part in the Battle of Abubakar.

You see, the Moros don't have a monopoly of savagery and barbarity.

* * *

Tri-Solid, a concessionaire at the Subic Bay Freeport in Zambales, has allegedly smuggled out of the Freeport an about 138 million liters of fuel oil for several years now, according to the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group (PASG).

Antonio Villar, PASG chief, estimates the value of the smuggled fuel oil at P3 billion. A big chunk of this amount should have been paid to the government in taxes and duties.

The imported fuel oil was not to be taxed as long as it was used inside the Freeport.

The owner of Tri-Solid is a Chinoy businessman who is reportedly a *compadre* of an official of the Task Force Anti-Smuggling (TFAS) at the Subic Freeport.

What's retired Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim, head of TFAS, doing about the rampant smuggling of fuel oil?

* * *

Because of the watchful eyes of Villar's men, customs collections have increased by leaps and bounds.

Importers now honestly declare the contents and value of their shipments, and so are charged the correct taxes and duties.

Thousands of containers, suspected to carry misdeclared or undervalued goods, are impounded at the piers while their owners look for "godfathers" to talk to Villar.

But Villar, who's been called "*berdugo*" (literally, one who beheads) by smugglers, has made himself unreachable to politicians and top government officials acting as mediators for the owners of the "suspected" cargoes. Hurray!

Israel to stop hunting 180 wanted Fatah militants

JERUSALEM—ISRAEL AGREED on Sunday to stop hunting 180 wanted Fatah militants who pledged to end attacks against the Jewish state, as part of a US-led effort to bolster Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

At Palestinian security compounds across the West Bank, scores of militants from the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an offshoot of Abbas's secular Fatah faction, signed pledges forswearing violence. Some of the militants turned in weapons.

"I want to live a normal life without Israeli assassinations and arrests," one of the al-Aqsa leaders, Monif al-Rimawi, said after he and about 35 other wanted militants signed the written pledges in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert plans to meet Abbas on Monday, most likely in Jerusalem, to discuss the amnesty program and other Israeli gestures, Israeli officials said.

Abbas aide Saeb Erekat said the meeting was possible on Monday.

Washington wants Olmert to jumpstart long-stalled peace talks through Abbas after Hamas's violent takeover of the Gaza Strip last month, but Israel has so far balked at discussing final status issues like the fate of Jerusalem, borders and Palestinian refugees.

Olmert spokesperson Miri Eisin said Israel agreed on a list of 180 wanted Palestinians who have "deactivated themselves as terrorists, are going to hand down their arms, and, as part of the new developing security relationship, Israel will not pursue them any more."

Avi Dichter, Israel's internal security minister, said: "This is not a concession but an attempt to change the atmosphere. If, unfortunately, we are proven wrong, we can turn back the wheels."

In addition to the reprieve for Fatah militants, Israel said it agreed to Abbas's request to allow Nayef Hawatmeh, the Damascus-based leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), and Farouk Kaddoumi, an exiled hardliner living in Tunis, to enter the occupied West Bank.

Abbas has also requested permission to bring into the West Bank thousands of new weapons and the so-called Badr Brigade, a Fatah force based in Jordan, to bolster security.

Israeli officials said their goal was to strengthen Abbas and the government he formed last month in the West Bank to replace a cabinet led by Hamas Islamists who won 2006 elections.

Eisin said Israel would give Abbas on Monday a final list of 250 prisoners who will be released from Israeli jails.

Ismail Haniyeh, the Hamas leader in Gaza who still considers himself prime minister, decried what he called "political bribes" aimed at increasing internal divisions. *Reuters*

FATAH militant Amjad Halawi smiles as he sits next to a portrait of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas after coming out of hiding in Bethlehem on July 15. In seven years on the run from Israel, Amjad Halawi grew a thick mane of black hair well below his shoulders because he said he was too afraid to come out of hiding, even for a trip to the barbershop. AP

JEWISH STATE'S 9TH LEADER

Peres vows to pursue peace as Israel president

JERUSALEM—NOBEL PEACE LAUREATE Shimon Peres was sworn in as Israel's president on Sunday and pledged to seize the opportunity to encourage long-delayed efforts to achieve a diplomatic resolution to conflict in the Middle East.

A former prime minister and Israel's eldest statesman, Peres, 83, was elected by parliament a month ago to the highly prestigious post. Though the job is largely ceremonial, past presidents have had substantial influence in Israeli politics.

"When the opportunity for peace is created, it must not be missed," Peres said in his inaugural speech to parliament, after taking the oath of office, in a ceremony interrupted briefly by the wails of his infant great-grandson, at which he smiled.

It is a president's duty to "encourage peace processes at home, with our neighbors and the entire region," Peres added in his remarks to a house packed with Israeli well-wishers and dignitaries.

Peres won a Nobel prize along with the late Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat for a 1993 interim peace deal, Israel's first with the Palestinians, that led to the establishment of limited Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and the occupied West Bank.

As head of state, Peres will have the critical job of granting pardons or commuting sentences for prisoners in Israeli jails, including dozens of Palestinian inmates Israel has pledged to release in a boost to President Mahmoud Abbas.

Peres replaces Moshe Katzav, who resigned from the presidency last month after admitting in a plea bargain for a dropped rape charge to committing sex crimes against a woman employee and sexually harassing another.

ISRAEL'S elder statesman and Nobel peace laureate Shimon Peres being sworn in as the Jewish State's ninth president during a ceremony in the Knesset, the Israeli parliament on July 15 in Jerusalem. AFP

Born in Poland, Peres immigrated before Israel achieved statehood and rose through the ranks of the leftist Labour party as an ally of the country's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion.

As deputy defense minister in the late 1950s Peres secured a secret deal with France to launch an Israeli nuclear programme that the Jewish state has reportedly used to produce atomic weapons, though Israel does not comment on this.

Peres served as prime minister from 1984 to 1986 then again in 1995 after Rabin's assassination, though he never won an Israeli election for the position decisively.

He left Labour in 2005 to help found the centrist Kadima party alongside Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Ariel Sharon, the former prime minister who has been in a coma since suffering a stroke the following year.

Peres, Israel's ninth head of state, had to step down as Olmert's deputy in order to become president, and resign as parliament's longest-serving member of 48 years.

While the presidency does not entail any direct involvement in policymaking, Israeli presidents traditionally speak out on key issues, often influencing political decisions. The president also meets world leaders. *Reuters*

German president intervenes in 'targeted killing' row

BERLIN—GERMAN PRESIDENT Horst Koehler moved Sunday to calm the outcry over comments by Interior Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble, which have been widely interpreted as defending the "targeted killing" of suspects.

Koehler, who holds a largely ceremonial post and rarely makes political statements, told ZDF television: "I doubt that one could lightly allow things like the unlawful killing of terrorist suspects.

"One could ask whether the way in which the proposal has been made—in a rapid fire sort of manner—(is) really helpful."

His statement came as Schaeuble followed remarks last week about killing al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden with a guided missile with fresh calls for stricter antiterror laws.

Schaeuble told the latest edition of Der Spiegel news magazine that the German authorities should be able to act against anybody who attended a terrorist training camp or was caught with instructions on how to make a bomb.

The minister, who is viewed as a hardliner here, routinely warns that Germany is at risk of terrorist attack and needs tougher measures to enable it to counter the threat.

Last week, he triggered a storm by telling Der Spiegel: "Let's say someone knew in which cave Osama bin Laden is sitting. Someone could then fire a guided missile to kill him."

Schaeuble also said Germany should consider classifying terror suspects as "enemy combatants." This would mirror the approach adopted by the United States to justify detaining suspects without filing criminal charges.

He also proposed banning foreign suspects living in Germany from using the Internet and mobile phones.

The Social Democrats, which form part of Chancellor Angela Merkel's left-right ruling coalition, have dismissed his suggestions as measures more appropriate to a police state.

On Sunday, the leader of the party, Kurt Beck, said Schaeuble "is overshooting the boundaries of the constitution by far."

"The measures he wants to take to protect our freedom will kill it," he added.

Merkel's office has made clear that there were no current plans to implement any of Schaeuble's proposals and on Sunday, the interior ministry issued a statement seeking to clarify his remarks about Bin Laden.

It said that they had been wrongly interpreted as a call for the widespread targeted killing of suspected terrorists. *AFP*

PEDAL POWER IN PARIS
A rider uses a new bicycle provided by Paris City Hall around the Eiffel Tower in Paris, on July 15. Paris City Hall launched a new bicycle service Sunday, with more than 10,600 posted at 750 stations all over the city and prices starting at a euro ($1.36) for a one-day pass. Users can take a bike and put it back at any station around town. AP

Strong quake rocks Japan, kills at least 5

KASHIWAZAKI, JAPAN—A 6.8-MAGNITUDE earthquake rocked Japan's northwest coast on Monday, killing at least five people. The quake injured hundreds of people, flattened scores of buildings and triggered a fire at a nuclear power plant.

Fire sirens could be heard in hard-hit Kashiwazaki city, and older buildings were reduced to piles of lumber. National broadcaster NHK reported more than 500 people were hurt, with injuries including broken bones, cuts and bruises.

Five people in their 70s and 80s—four women and one man—died after being crushed when buildings collapsed on them in the quake, said Takashi Morita, a spokesperson for the National Police Agency in Tokyo.

The area was plagued by a series of aftershocks, the strongest of which was magnitude 5.8. There were no immediate reports of additional damage or injuries from the aftershocks, which triggered no tsunami warnings.

"I was so scared—the violent shaking went on for 20 seconds," Ritei Wakatsuki, an employee of convenience store Lawson, told The Associated Press by telephone from Kashiwazaki. "I almost fainted by the fear of shaking."

Flames and billows of black smoke poured from the Kashiwazaki nuclear plant, which automatically shut down during the quake. The fire, at an electrical transformer, was put out shortly after noon and there was no release of radioactivity or damage to the reactors, said Motoyasu Tamaki, a Tokyo Electric Power Co. official.

Some 2,000 people in Kashiwazaki were evacuated from their homes, city official Takashi Otsuka said.

Nearly 300 buildings in the city were destroyed, a fire official said. The force of the quake buckled seaside roads and bridges, and one-meter wide fissures could been seen in the ground along the coastline.

The Meteorological Agency issued tsunami warnings along the coast of Niigata prefecture (state), but the warnings were later lifted. Waves as high as 50 cm were believed to have hit the coast, but no damage was reported.

Japan sits atop four tectonic plates and is one of the world's most earthquake-prone countries. The last major quake to hit the capital, Tokyo, killed some 142,000 people in 1923, and experts say the capital has a 90 percent chance of suffering a major quake in the next 50 years.

In October 2004, a magnitude-6.8 earthquake hit Niigata, killing 40 people and damaging more than 6,000 homes. It was the deadliest to hit Japan since 1995, when a magnitude-7.2 quake killed 6,433 people in the western city of Kobe. *AP*

Australia detains Indian terror suspect freed on bail

SYDNEY—THE AUSTRALIAN government Monday ordered an Indian doctor locked up in immigration detention just hours after a court granted him bail on a charge connected to the failed British car-bomb attacks.

Mohammed Haneef, 27, who had been working as a doctor in Australia, had his visa cancelled and will be held in detention until the charge against him is heard in court, Immigration Minister Kevin Andrews said.

"I am satisfied the cancellation is in the national interest," Andrews told reporters.

Andrews said he had come to the conclusion that Haneef failed a character test and he had used his powers under migration law to cancel his visa.

"Based on information and advice I have received from the Australian Federal Police I reasonably suspect that Dr. Haneef has had or has an association with persons involved in criminal conduct namely terrorism," he said.

The police would issue a criminal justice certificate, the effect of which would be to keep Haneef in the Villawood Immigration Centre in Sydney while legal proceedings were under way, Andrews said. *AFP*

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Over 70 dead in 3 Pakistan suicide attacks

ISLAMABAD—SUICIDE BOMBINGS KILLED OVER 70 people in three weekend attacks in Pakistan, police said Sunday, after Islamic militants called for holy war over a deadly army raid on a pro-Taliban mosque.

At least 26 people, including 13 police, were killed Sunday in a blast at a police recruitment center in North West Frontier Province, an official said.

Hours earlier two explosives-packed cars ploughed into an army convoy in the province's Swat Valley, claiming 17 lives.

The previous day, a suicide car bomber killed 24 people in a similar attack on a paramilitary convoy in North Waziristan tribal region, launching the string of attacks that has also left scores wounded.

The total death toll, 71 including the suicide bombers, was expected to rise after the latest blast, which left body parts scattered across the police recruitment center, with at least another dozen people in critical condition.

President Pervez Musharraf condemned the attacks and said "the menace of extremism and militancy need to be curbed by government with the cooperation of the people from all walks of life," state media reported.

The bloodshed came amid outrage among hardliners in the mainly Muslim nation over the army's raid last week on Islamabad's Red Mosque, which has saddled Musharraf with the worst crisis since he took power in 1999.

The raid which left 86 dead, most of them militants, led al-Qaida's number two to call for jihad against the government, which has sent thousands of troops into remote tribal areas to try to keep a lid on bubbling public anger.

Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao said that while Saturday's attack in North Waziristan likely stemmed from an older dispute with tribal groups, he conceded that the other two attacks "could have some linkage with the Red Mosque."

Pro-Taliban militants in North Waziristan Sunday scrapped a controversial peace accord reached with the government last year, in which the tribal groups had promised to hunt down foreign fighters in return for security assurances.

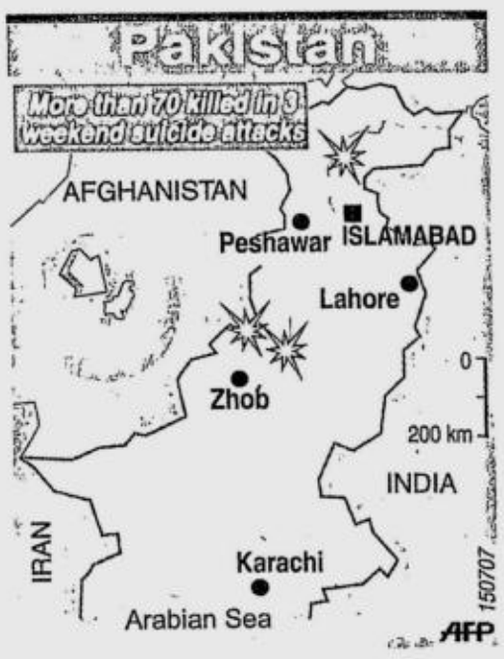
The Taliban Shura (Taliban Council) said in pamphlets that it would refuse all dialogue and cooperation with authorities after the government had failed to meet a Sunday deadline to abandon 25 new military checkpoints.

"We had signed the agreement for the safety and protection of the lives and property of our people," the statement said. "But the government forces continued to launch attacks on the Taliban and have killed a number of people."

Sherpao, speaking on local television, countered: "We have been insisting that they are not enforcing the agreement strictly. Now the government will be justified if it takes some action."

Residents of Miranshah, the capital of North Waziristan, said about 100 local families had left, fearing clashes, and that the main bazaar was deserted, while families of many government employees had also fled.

Pakistani army trucks carrying thousands of additional troops have rumbled into remote areas in recent days after Musharraf vowed to crush extremists and "root them out from every corner of the country." *AFP*



Former Bangladesh PM arrested on corruption charges

DHAKA—FORMER BANGladeshi prime minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed, who led the country from 1996 to 2001 and faces charges of corruption and murder, was arrested on Monday, an aide said.

"She has been arrested and taken away and is now being taken to the court," Hasan Mahmud, personal secretary to Sheikh Hasina, told AFP.

Earlier, more than 400 police and elite security forces surrounded Sheikh Hasina's Dhaka residence.

Reports said aides were removed from the house, telephone lines cut and all roads in the immediate vicinity sealed off.

Hundreds of onlookers and journalists watched as Sheikh Hasina was driven away to Dhaka's chief metropolitan magistrates' court.

One of her lawyers told the private CSB News channel she had been arrested on extortion, corruption and murder charges.

Sheikh Hasina, who is leader of the Awami League party, is the daughter of Bangladesh's independence leader and first prime minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who was killed along with most of his family in a 1975 military coup.

Her son Sajid Wajed Joy, speaking by telephone from Canada to the private Bangla Vision television network, condemned the arrest.

"It is a conspiracy against her and against democracy. We need to fight like we did in 1971 against this government to free her and establish democracy in the country," he said referring to Bangladesh's war of independence against Pakistan.

Since January, Bangladesh has been ruled by a military-backed emergency government which has vowed to clean up the country's notoriously graft-ridden politics before holding elections in December 2008.

A string of charges have been filed against her in recent months. Murder allegations against her relate to the death of four people who died in protests last October organized by the Awami League.

More than 150 high-profile politicians, businessmen and bureaucrats have been arrested in the government's corruption crackdown. A handful have been convicted by special fast-track courts and sentenced to between three and 13 years.

The emergency government came to power on Jan. 12, a day after President Iajuddin Ahmed cancelled disputed polls and imposed the emergency.

The crisis followed months of violent street demonstrations and blockades called by the Awami Leage over its allegations that the outgoing Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), led by Sheikh Hasina's bitter rival Khaleda Zia, had sought to rig the elections.

At least 35 people died in the violence between Awami League and BNP supporters.

In April, the government tried to exile Sheikh Hasina by barring her from returning to Bangladesh, from the United States where she had been visiting relatives.

The charges of murder and some corruption charges were also filed against her in her absence.

The government, however, backed down over the ban and she made a triumphant return welcomed by thousands of supporters. *AFP*

POLICE escort former Bangladeshi Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina (center) to a court in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on July 16. AP

24 Iranians escape from Iraqi prison

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—IRAQI POLICE acknowledged on Sunday that 24 Iranians who had been detained for entering the country illegally and using fake passports had escaped from a prison on the Iraqi side of the porous border.

When the police realized there had been a prison break, they imposed a curfew on Badra, the town where the prison is located, and caught four of the escapees. But the others remained free, said a police official in Badra.

Iraq's long border with Iran is exceedingly difficult to police. American troops have been working to intercept the flow of weapons and weapon parts that appear to be coming from Iran. Some of the Iranians who cross the border illegally are pilgrims who have not obtained legal travel documents for trips to worship in the Shiite pilgrimage cities of Najaf and Karbala, but Iraqi and American security officials contend that some Iranians also cross the border to aid insurgents.

Kidnappings occurred throughout the country on Sunday, documenting the atmosphere of fear that seems hard to stem despite the increased number of American troops and a drop in the number of large-scale attacks.

In Kut, a Shiite area about 112 km southeast of Baghdad, the wife of the provincial council leader was assassinated along with the couple's 8-year-old son, by gunmen who broke into their house at 6 a.m. and shot them. The woman died immediately, said a Kut police official. The child was rushed to the hospital by the police, but died before they could get there. *NYT*

Sarkozy, Merkel to tackle problems of troubled Airbus

TOULOUSE, FRANCE—PRESIdent Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel meet in southwest France on Monday to decide who will run the troubled European aerospace group EADS and its main division Airbus.

The European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company is currently headed by French and German chairs and chief executives, an arrangement often blamed for slow decision-making and ineffective management.

While Sarkozy and Merkel agree on streamlining the management structure, maintaining the Franco-German balance has turned out to be a major bone of contention that has threatened to sour relations.

The French business daily La Tribune reported that a deal had been reached that would see the current French cochief executive, Louis Gallois, take over as sole head of EADS while his German counterpart, Tom Enders, would head Airbus.

German Rudiger Grube would take over as sole chair of the group, pushing current French cochair Arnaud Lagardere down to a role as member of the board, according to La Tribune quoting sources in Berlin.

The summit held at the Toulouse headquarters of Airbus is seen as a first test for Sarkozy, whose criticism of the strong euro and defense of France's industrial interests have irked Berlin and sparked fears of a resurgence of state interventionism.

On the eve of the talks, Merkel said "business considerations" should take precedence over politics when deciding how to streamline EADS' management structure.

"The firm must be managed by business considerations and not politics," said Merkel in an interview to the German Handelsblatt daily, adding that the Toulouse meeting was aimed at "making EADS stronger."

Airbus is pushing through a radical restructuring plan to correct organizational and commercial problems that saddled it with an operating loss last year despite its delivery of a record number of planes.

The spectacular fall into the red was caused mainly by delays and production problems with the Airbus A380 superjumbo, which is set to enter service later this year, with some of the difficulties blamed on dysfunctional management.

Sarkozy has also proposed expanding the EADS shareholder pact to find new partners in order to finance projects and overcome the effects of a rising euro, but the Germans have shown reservations.

At present the principal shareholders in EADS are the French state, with 15 percent, and the French media and defense group Lagardere, which owns an equivalent stake that it is reducing to 7.5 percent.

On the German side, automaker DaimlerChrysler has 15 percent and 7.5 percent is held by a consortium of investors, including regional governments.

The shareholder structure of EADS was diversified last year when Russian state-owned bank Vneshtorgbank bought a 5.0-percent stake. The Spanish state holding company Sepi has a 5.47-percent interest. *AFP*

OPEN-AIR THEATER

Artists of the Australian Strange Fruit performing arts company put up a show in a Bucharest Romania park July 15. The Romanian capital will host an open-air theater festival with shows at the weekends until August. AP

Son of Osama weds divorcee

RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA—A SON of Osama bin Laden confirmed Sunday he had married a British woman nearly twice his age, and voiced outrage at the publicity the wedding attracted.

Jane Felix-Browne, a 51-year-old grandmother from Moulton, a village in northwestern England, told The Associated Press last week that she met Omar bin Laden, 27, while riding a horse near Egypt's Great Pyramid and that they married on April 24.

The Times and Sun newspapers, which initially reported the story, said she was in Egypt for medical treatment for multiple sclerosis at the time.

In a written statement published on Sunday, Omar bin Laden said he was "stunned and outraged" by the publicity surrounding his marriage to Felix-Browne, whom he identified as Zaina Bint Mohamad Al-Sabah.

Felix-Browne, a five-time divorcee, is a parish councilor in England with three children by previous marriages and five grandchildren. She has confirmed she held Islamic marriage ceremonies in both Egypt and Saudi Arabia with her sixth husband. *AP*

SPORTS

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CRACK San Miguel-Pilipinas guard Jimmy Alapag holds aloft his Most Valuable Player award and shows the RP team jersey with pride after the title victory Sunday. RYAN LIM

TARGET: TOKUSHIMA

Good fortune, solid play 'key for RP five'

By Musong R. Castillo

COACH CHOT REYES HAS ALWAYS BEEN an excellent copy for sportswriters for his knack of stirring the imagination of the basketball-loving public.

Reyes was in his element Sunday night during the post-game interview following the victory of the San Miguel-Pilipinas national team in a pocket tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

For all its worth, the rare triumph raised the hopes of a nation seeking to regain basketball supremacy in Asia—and maybe make it back to the Olympics next year.

"The difference between this team now and that of March 12 (when it was formed) is like night and day," Reyes said. "It has grown into a very different creature. If I may say, this team has evolved very well."

The national coach had every reason to talk that way, especially after the Philippines held off Lebanon, 87-81, Sunday to win the Smart 4-Nation Manila Invitational that also featured teams from China and Syria.

It was the second championship for the Na-

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Rasmussen conquers Alps as Vinokourov keeps lead

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RP Open badminton kickoff rites set today

THEY KNOW THEIR MIXED DOUBLES OPponents are tough to beat, but the brother-sister tandem of Kennie and Kennevic Asuncion are not a bit intimidated.

Having reached the finals in last year's inaugural edition of the Bingo Bonanza Philippine Open badminton championships, the Asuncions feel they can stand up against some of the world's best players.

"It's going to be real tough but we'll do our best," said Kennevic, admitting that playing in front of the hometown crowd adds a lot of pressure to their game.

"But at the same time, it helps a lot especially when they're cheering for us," said Kennie, who will also compete in the ladies doubles with Indon partner Wang Li Li.

Despite the intimidating presence of the world No. 2 men's pair of Kien Keat Koo and Boon Heong Tan of Malaysia, American Tony Gunawan and Indon partner Candra Wijaya remain confident of their chances.

"We have a good chance here," said Gunawan during a break in practice yesterday. "I hope everything goes well."

Gunawan and Wijaya, coming off a series of semifinal stints in top-level tournaments, take on the Malaysian pair of Ming Chan Chong and How Hoon Thien at 6:30 p.m. in the lower half of the 32-pair draw tomorrow.

Favorites Kien and Boon get going against Germans Roman Spitko and Michael Fuchs in the upper bracket at 5 p.m.

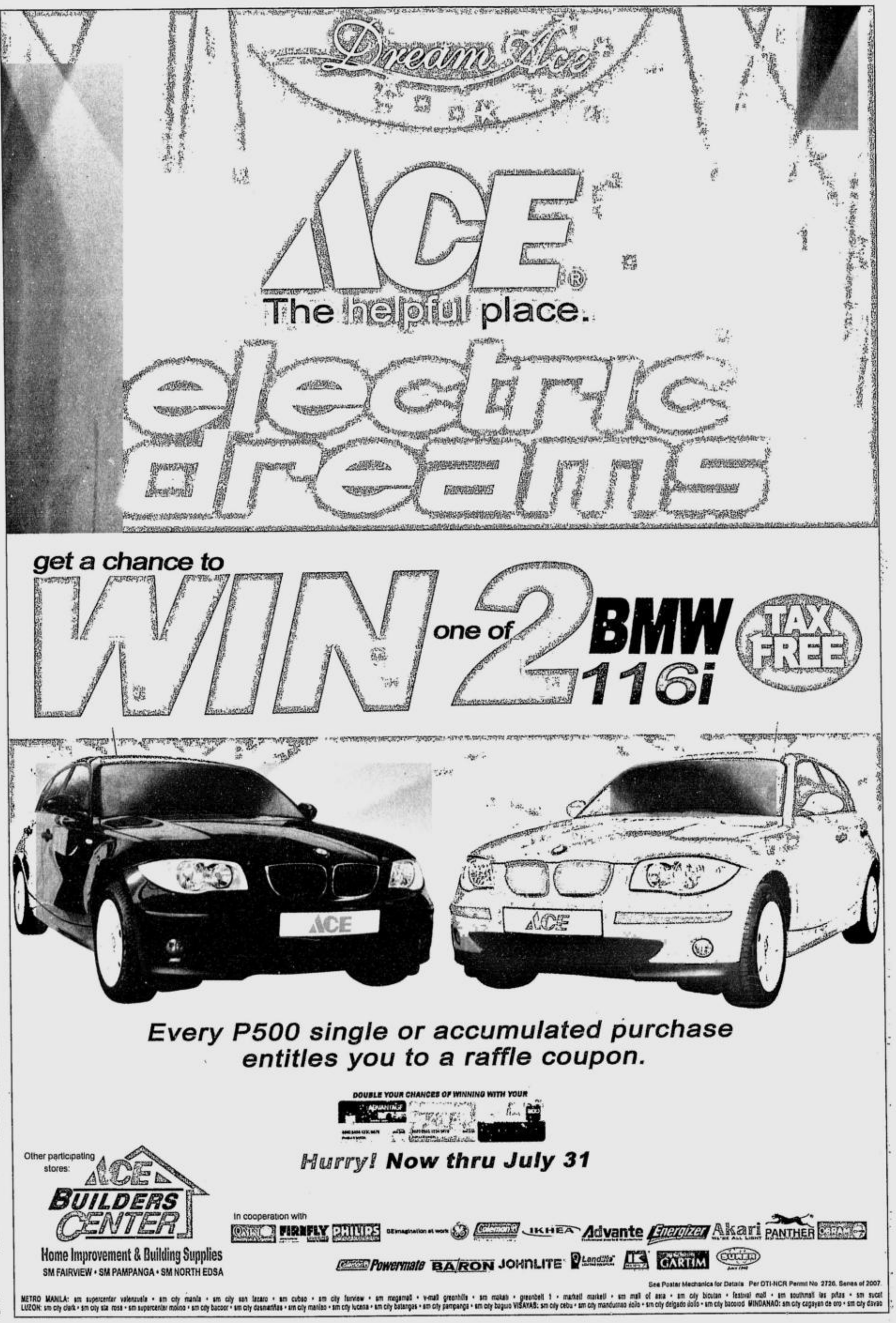
The RP Open, a $120,000 Grand Prix Gold event, will be launched today at the Holiday Inn Galleria with the world ranked players gracing the inaugurals at 11 a.m.

A one-day qualifier will also be held at Philsports today with 35 Filipinos chasing berths to the main draw in various divisions.

A record field of 315 from 31 countries are seeing action in the championships.

Tickets are available at Ticketworld at the National Book Store outlets. They are pegged at P300, P200, P150, P100 and P50 in the eliminations to quarterfinal stages. Tickets in the semis and finals are priced at P500, P400, P300, P200 and P50.

WORLD No. 6 ladies singles player Pi Hongyan of France (right) poses with Weny Rahmawati and two other teammates on their arrival at the NAIA. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



TNT Pals have a ball on Washington's day

GAME TOMORROW (*Araneta Coliseum*)
7 p.m.—Alaska vs Talk 'N Text

By Musong R. Castillo

JAY WASHINGTON COULD ONLY LET out a hearty laugh after admitting he forgot to call a timeout with less than five seconds remaining in Game 5 Sunday night of the PBA Fiesta Cup finals.

Rather than sue for time, he issued one of the most perfect inbound passes ever seen in a championship game.

"Yeah, I should have called for time, but then I forgot all about it," said Washington, whose end-to-end pass found Harvey Carey for a layup that sealed Talk 'N Text's 107-104 win over Alaska and moved the Phone Pals within a win of the Fiesta Cup championship.

That pass prevented the Aces from giving a duty foul and making the Phone Pals bleed for two points from the stripe.

That pass may have also sealed his place in the fourth-quarter rotation of coach Derrick Pumaren.

And that pass, for all intents and purposes, will be regarded as the key if the Phone Pals do go all the way.

After so-so efforts the first four games, Washington was the literal difference in the crucial fifth game, shooting nine of his 15 points in the fourth period before capping his brilliance with that fine throw.

Picked first overall in the rookie draft by Air21 two years ago, Washington also scored five straight points that wiped out a four-point Alaska edge near the final two minutes.

"It's been a tough series for me, coming off the bench and all," the 25-year-old said. "It came to a point when I felt (that maybe) I was stinking too much. I just had to relax a bit, not force the issue. I felt I was too strapped up in the game."

The Phone Pals will try to close out the Aces in Game 6 scheduled tomorrow, also at the Big Dome in Cubao.

Eaglets rip Tiger Cubs; Baby Tams keep pace

By Jasmine W. Payo

ATENEO POSTED BLOWOUT VICTORIES OVER THE WEEKEND TO stay unbeaten both in the UAAP juniors and women's basketball tournaments.

Juami Tiongson drilled in 21 points to power the Blue Eaglets past the University of Santo Tomas Tiger Cubs, 79-64, Saturday at the Far Eastern University Gym.

The senior guard banked on a strong 9-of-12 shooting performance as the defending champions grabbed a share of the lead at 2-0.

In women's play, the Lady Eagles also secured their second straight victory with a 54-30 rout of National U Sunday at the Blue Eagle Gym.

Just like the Eaglets, the FEU Baby Tams, the NU Bullpups and the La Salle Zobel Junior Archers easily dispatched their foes for 2-0 cards.

Mashi Okubo pumped in 18 points, while Jed Bryan Manguera added 17 markers and five assists as the Junior Archers blasted the UP Junior Maroons, 93-52.

The NU Bullpups, who won only one game last season, pulled off their second straight win with Kevin Batac firing 30 points in a 79-69 rout of the Adamson Baby Falcons.

Anthony Paulino led the Baby Tamaraws' balanced charge in a 75-64 decision against the UE Pages.

While UP remained winless in the men's and juniors action, the Lady Maroons outclassed the Lady Archers, 46-36, to join Ateneo on top.

GAMES THURSDAY
(*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)
2 p.m.—Adamson vs UST (Srs)
4 p.m.—La Salle vs FEU (Srs)

The reigning titlists UST Tigresses recovered from their opening-day loss with a 69-56 win over the Lady Falcons as Rem Buenacosa starred with 19 points and 11 rebounds and Marichu Bacaro added 14 markers and six assists.

Rizza Palmera nailed two free throws in the last six seconds to lift the Lady Tamaraws to a 53-51 nipping of the UE Amazons.

The scores:

First Game (Jrs)

ATENEO 79—Tiongson 21, Banal 12, Dumrique 11, Ravena 9, Enriquez 8, Bugarin 6, Esquievel 6, Capacio 4, Valera 2, Bejar 0, Reyes 0, Balmaceda 0, Golla 0, Gamboa 0, Aportadera 0.

UST 64—Francisco 17, Buendia 12, Chang 9, Sarsonas 8, Banquicio 7, Manuel 5, Aquino 4, Tan 2, Orlondo 0, Labing-isa 0, Aquino 0, De Sagon 0.

Quarters: 23-10, 37-23, 45-41, 79-64

Second Game (Jrs)

FEU 75—Paulino 14, Lim 11, Edding 10, Guerrero 9, Rodrin 9, Ko 6, Castillo 6, Almario 4, Maloles 4, Pardo 1, Argamino 1, Talavera 0.

UE 64—Santos 28, Villegas 13, Nicolas 9, Canizares 7, De Guzman 6, San Juan 1, Abbarientos 0, Derpo 0, Del Rosario 0, Crisostomo 0.

Quarters: 18-16, 34-24, 58-40, 75-64

GRAND ENTRANCE: Reigning champion Cyna Rodriguez carries the Philippine flag at the head of the large Filipino delegation at the well-attended opening ceremonies of the 2007 Callaway Junior World golf championships at Torrey Pines in San Diego, California. The tournament is set July 16-20. INQUIRER PHOTO/NICK SAGMIT-SAN FRANCISCO CORRESPONDENT

NSAs told to look for funds

WITH THE FINANCIAL WELL OF THE PHILippine Sports Commission fast drying up, the Philippine Olympic Committee has advised the national sports associations (NSAs) to brace for hard times.

POC chair Robert Aventajado yesterday said the NSAs should not expect that all financial requests from the PSC will be granted in the face of shortage of government funds to sustain the country's sports development program.

"If you know that PSC support will not be enough, you have to find ways to augment the funding of the association," Aventajado told officials of the 40 NSAs, which will be represented in the 24th Southeast Asian Games in Thailand on Dec. 6-16.

The PSC will shoulder the training and participation of the NSAs in the games to the tune of P90-P100 million but is hard-pressed to fund the foreign exposure of the athletes bound for the SEAG and the training of national bets in China seeking Olympic slots. *June Navarro*

Good fortune, solid play crucial . . . From page A21

tionals in their preparation for the "Big Dance" in Japan, the Fiba Asia Men's Championship in Tokushima, in less than two weeks.

After basking in the limelight with the rest of the team, Reyes firmly declared that the Philippines has something to look forward to in the Fiba Asia Olympic Qualifier.

"I think we have the game to compete in Japan, but can we win it?" he said. "I don't know. (In) winning championships and winning titles (you must have) a lot of breaks go your way. It's always a confluence of good fortune and good play.

"I think we can take care of 50 percent of that, and that is good play," Reyes added. "With a little luck, yes, I think we have a great chance (of winning the event and landing an Olympic berth)."

The Philippines is bracketed in the Tokushima preliminaries with Asian powerhouses China, Iran and Jordan in what Reyes described as "the Group of Death."

Luck is needed as early as this week as the team is still awaiting the arrival of several crucial documents proving point guard Gabe Norwood's claim to Filipino roots.

The 6-foot-6 former George Mason University standout in the US NCAA has proven to be a vital element in the team. Pundits say that the country's chances will take a severe blow if Norwood fails to make it to Japan to play.

Reyes has always harped about the Philippines having the best point guards in Asia.

Jimmy Alapag won the 4-Nation MVP and justified that. Less than two weeks before, the injured Jay-Jay Helterbrand wrought havoc in the Jones Cup in Taipei.

And having Norwood out there certainly bolsters RP's stock some more.

"In my mind, the guard spot is the only spot we can dominate in Asia," Reyes said. "The addition of Norwood gave us many dimensions—an extra point guard, a big point guard, an extra defender, a wingman.

"Whatever you need him to do, he's ready to do it."

Never has the Philippines had this merry mix of PBA superstars and Fil-Americans ready to play for flag and country. And never has this country had this solid a shot to make it back to the Summer Games for the first time in 35 years.

And with an entire nation praying for good fortune to come its way, Reyes may be belting out some of his snappy one-liners again after Tokushima.

REYES: We can

NCAA JUNIOR CAGING

Staglets, Squires show way

By Marc Anthony Reyes

RYAN BUENAFE POSTED THE SEASON'S first triple-double performance as the defending champion San Sebastian Staglets blasted the Jose Rizal Light Bombers, 109-96, yesterday to grab a piece of the lead in the NCAA junior basketball competition at the Arena in San Juan.

The 6-foot-2 Buenafe, playing his last year with the Staglets, highlighted his brilliant showing with 44 points on top of 11 rebounds and 10 assists as the Staglets improved to 3-1.

The scoring binge surpassed the 40-point output made by Letran's Kevin Alas last week.

"He is a big factor for us every game," said San Sebastian coach Raymond Valenzona. "I hope that his focus and dedication will rub on everybody in the team."

Earlier, John Noble scattered 29 points, while brothers Kevin and Kristoffer Alas combined for 40 as the Letran Squires crushed the Perpetual Help Altalettes, 117-72.

STANDINGS	W	L
Letran	3	1
S Sebastian	3	1
San Beda	2	2
Jose Rizal	2	2
CSB-LSGH	2	2
Perpetual 0	4	

GAMES TOMORROW
(*The Arena, San Juan*)
2 p.m.—San Sebastian vs St. Benilde (Srs)
4 p.m.—Perpetual vs Mapua (Srs)

St. Benilde-La Salle Green Hills ambushed San Beda, 70-62, in the nightcap to raise its record to 2-2.

The 18-year-old Buenafe made 20 of 34 attempts in posting the season's new scoring record. Arvie Bringas backed him up with 26 points and 12 rebounds.

Bon Jovi Cipriano paced JRC with 30 points.

Jorge Nicolas topscored with 20 points while Martin and Miguel Reyes each contributed 15 points for the Greenies.

SPORTSWATCH

Fernandez, Altamirano head SBP training centers

FERNANDEZ

ALTAMIRANO

FOUR-TIME PBA most valuable player and former MBA commissioner Ramon Fernandez and champion PBA coach Eric Altamirano have been appointed as heads of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas (SBP) National Training Centers for the Visayas and Metro Manila, respectively.

SBP executive director Patrick C. Gregorio announced the selection of Fernandez and Altamirano who will spearhead the scientific training of national team aspirants in their designated areas.

Fernandez, a University of San Carlos alumnus who won a gold medal as a member of the 1973 RP team in the Fiba Asia Championship and a silver medal in the 1990 Asian Games in Beijing, brings his vast experience in the sport to the SBP.

Altamirano, the 1986 UAAP MVP who also steered Purefoods and Mobiline to PBA titles in 1997 and 1998, respectively, brings his coaching and training expertise to the program. His Coach E Basketball School is among the most respected in the nation.

Milo Junior Tennis Cup gets going in Iligan Saturday

ILIGAN CITY—TITLES IN NINE AGE CLASSes will be disputed in the National Power Corp.-Iligan Tennis Club leg of the 2007 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and regional workshop on July 21 to 23 at the indoor clay courts here.

The region's most promising junior netters are expected to compete for top honors in the Milo tournament, which is celebrating its 20th year. The event is organized by the Children's Tennis Workshop, sanctioned by the Philippine Tennis Association and supported by Prince tennis equipment.

The championships to be disputed are those in the 18-under, 16-under, 14-under and 12-under classes for boys and girls, as well as the unisex 10-under division.

Project director Mario Craiz is coordinating the tournament with NPC-Iligan Tennis Club president Dr. Nicasio Baguio and officers Danny Fernandez and Neil Fernandez.

'Rambulan' Round 4 today

THE BATTLES AMONG METRO MANILA'S leading cockers resume today with the fourth round of the 3M Rambulan 6-Cock Derby at the San Juan Coliseum.

So far, 33 participants have tallied 2 points each, including Jun Topacio, Frank Cabaddu, *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio, Nelson Uy, Roger Segismundo, derby host Rodolfo Pineda, Louie Cua and Raymond Turla.

Thursday is the last day of eliminations of the derby sponsored by Sagupaan Complex-or 3000.

Meanwhile, a 4-cock event sizzles on July 26 with host Cesar Sto. Domingo dangling a prize pot of P300,000 for an entry fee of P10,000. Next up at the venue is the Super Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan on July 28.

Roligon derby stakes P1M

A GUARANTEED PRIZE OF P1 MILLION IS at stake in the "Pahabol Sa Taglugon" 5-cock derby which fires off on July 31 and Aug. 2 at Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque.

Host Rolly Ligon pegged the entry fee at P7,700 to accommodate small-time cockers and backyard breeders. Minimum bet is P5,500.

The event comes on the heels of last week's "Hatawan Sa Tag-ulan" 6-cock derby. Christian Canco with his entry Dr. Suave, Obet Son of Bulacan (Lifetime), Leo Loy (Chaps) and Ati Asuncion (St. Ignatius) tied for the championship.

Asuncion bagged the bonus prize of P500,000 for being the fastest win champion.

Sports ed's sister dies

DR. NORLINA ANDAYA, SISTER OF People's Tonight sports editor Ed Andaya, died in a vehicular accident last Saturday in Cabiao, Nueva Ecija. A physician in Nueva Ecija, Andaya was on her way to medical mission when her car collided with a passenger bus in Cabiao. She was 43. Her remains are at the family residence on A. Bonifacio Avenue, Cainta, Rizal. She is survived by her mother Faustina, brothers Ed, Albert, Joseph and Chris and sister Mary Grace and other relatives. Interment is at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday at the Cainta Catholic cemetery.

RACING 7/5

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Royal Flame (4), Dr. Jude (1)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Victory Ranger (6), Sweet Talk (1), Reigns of Supreme (3), Jigsaw Star (5)
Race 3—(Rho Sig (4), Long Hitter (6), Showman (2), Refreshing (1)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Man Power (4), Grand Fiesta (5), Tikboy (2), Fuego (7)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Alam Mo Na Yan (4), Hurry Princess (5), Selectee (1), Sovereign Dancer (2)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Sound of silence (5), Kim Possible (6), Golden Song (7), Eskapo (1), Arrivederci (4)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Nico's Incharge (7), Sandok (4), Irish Step (1), Fait Urduja (2), Vinfa's Pride (8)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Lord Brian (9), Bloodline (7), Noble Scholar (2), Carmelita (5), House of Riches (12), Speed Admiral (4)

Rasmussen conquers Alps as Vinokourov keeps lead

MICHAEL Rasmussen of Denmark strains on his way to victory in the 8th stage. AP

TIGNES, FRANCE—THE TOUR DE France rest day could not come soon enough for Alexandre Vinokourov.

With the stitches in his knees still causing him unbearable pain, the Kazakhstan rider could not get anywhere close to Michael Rasmussen and just about managed to keep in touch with the other front-runners during Sunday's eighth stage.

"The rest day will do a lot of good. It's true that it was a very, very hard day for me," Vinokourov said. "But Andreas (Kloeden) supported me. He did an incredible job and we tried to limit the damage."

While Denmark's Rasmussen showed just why he is the two-time holder of the King of the Mountains jersey with a brilliant climb up three straight Category 1 ascents, Vinokourov and his Astana teammate Kloeden won over French fans over with bravery.

Although Rasmussen has the yellow jersey and Vinokourov is 4 minutes, 29 seconds back, the Kazakh rider Vinokourov has not yet given up on challenging for the Tour.

He may be right, seeing as Monday's rest day will give his battered knees a chance to heal and then he'll only have one more Alpine stage to get through Tuesday—albeit the toughest one—before the race resumes on flatter roads far easier on the body.

"I still have hope," Vinokourov said. "The team did a great job and it's not over yet. Yes, it's not easy with my injury, but a lot of people supported me on the side of the road."

Still, the 165-kilometer (102.5-mile) trek from Le Grand-Bornand to Tignes under a sweltering sun left its mark.

Making their way back to the Astana team bus, Vinokourov and Kloeden were the personification of pain.

Kloeden, who has been riding with a hairline fracture of the coccyx since both crashed on Thursday, hunched forward and had to grip both hand rails tightly to even make his way up the bus steps. Vinokourov slowly placed one leg in front of the other as if the steps were even tougher than the hills he'd just climbed.

In stark contrast, Rasmussen breezed through the three Cat. 1 climbs as if he were on a leisurely afternoon cycle.

He attacked on the Cornet de Roselend, strengthened his lead up the Montee d'Hauteville and was too far ahead to be caught by the time he'd reached the Montee de Tignes, crossing the line in Tignes in 4 hours, 49 minutes, 40 seconds.

A tall, thin and wiry rider, Rasmussen has the perfect build for climbing, and he showed that by beating Spain's Iban Mayo to the finish line by 2 minutes, 47 seconds, and Alejandro Valverde by 3:12.

Rasmussen took his first yellow jersey from German rider Linus Gerdemann, who had the lead after a bold stage win Saturday but finished the stage several minutes behind Rasmussen on Sunday.

Overall, Rasmussen holds a 43-second lead over Gerdemann overall and a 2:39 gap over Mayo. *AP*

Russia trips US in Fed Cup semis

STOWE, VERMONT—RUSSIA OVERCAME THE absence of Maria Sharapova and Svetlana Kuznetsova and toppled the United States, 3-2, Sunday in the semifinals of the Fed Cup.

Russia advanced to the Fed Cup final against Italy, which eliminated France earlier Sunday.

Russian captain Shamil Tarpischev credited his team's depth, saying he could choose from as many as 15 women and still compete for the Cup. The ones who did the damage Sunday were Nadia Petrova and Elena Vesnina.

Petrova evened the series 2-2 by crushing Cup newcomer Meilen Tu, 6-1, 6-2, after Venus Williams gave the US the series lead by powering past Anna Chakvetadze, 6-1, 6-4.

But Petrova and Vesnina sealed the win, beating Lisa Raymond and Williams, 7-5, 7-6 (7-1).

Williams, fresh from winning Wimbledon last weekend, gave the Americans their other point with a three-set victory over Petrova on Saturday. But Vania King, ranked 84th, lost easily to Petrova.

Tu, ranked 43rd, and King were playing because Venus' sister, Serena, pulled out with an injury last week.

Even without Sharapova and Kuznetsova, Russia replaced them with Chakvetadze and Petrova—ranked eighth and ninth on the WTA Tour—and Vesnina.

In the doubles, Vesnina held serve to give the Russians a 6-5 lead. The pair then broke Raymond when Vesnina slammed a return down the line for a winner and Williams netted a volley.

The Americans took a 4-3 lead in the second set with a break against Vesnina's serve. But the Russians broke back in the next game after three deuces when Vesnina won two points at the net.

In the tiebreaker, Petrova double-faulted on the first point, but the Russians swept the next seven points, including some fine returns by Vesnina off Williams.

"Now she heard about me; now she knows me," Vesnina said.

The US had beaten Russia four of five times in Cup play, but Russia has won the title twice in three years. The US has not reached the finals since winning for the 17th time in 2000. *AP*

DOUBLES partners Elena Vesnina (left) and Nadia Petrova of Russia exult after beating Venus Williams and Lisa Raymond of the US. REUTERS

Italy claws back to repulse France

CASTELLANETA MARINA, ITALY—DEFENDING champions Italy defied 40-degree temperatures to come back from 2-1 down to beat France, 3-2, and reach the Fed Cup final on Sunday.

Francesca Schiavione teamed up with Roberta Vinci in the crucial doubles to see off Nathalie Dechy and Severine Bremond, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.

Italy will now face Russia, who beat the US 3-2, in the September 15-16 final.

France was left kicking itself after throwing away a golden chance to wrap up the semifinal.

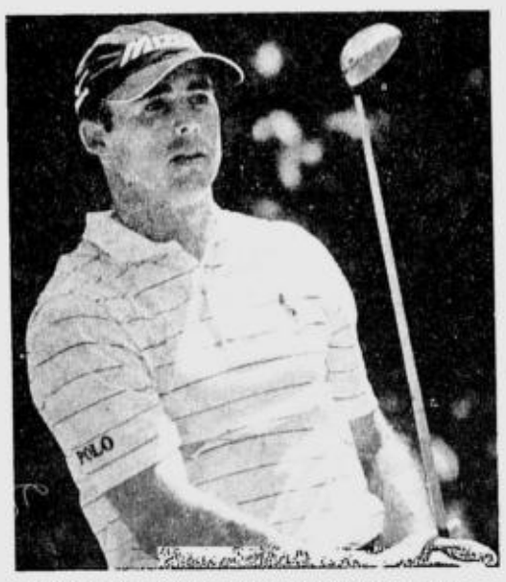
Amelie Mauresmo beat Mara Santangelo, 6-7 (5/7), 6-0, 6-4, in Sunday's opening singles before Tatiana Golovin threw away a 5-2 final set lead to crumble to a 6-4, 2-6, 7-5 defeat against Schiavone in the second singles rubber of the day.

FRANCESCA Schiavone. REUTERS

Schiavone was included in the doubles team despite having spent 2hr 44min on court against Golovin taking the place of Santangelo.

Golovin gave France their first point of the tie when she beat Tathiana Garbin, 6-3, 2-6, 6-2, in Saturday's opening rubber before the home side hit back when Schiavone beat Mauresmo in straight sets.

On Sunday, Santangelo gave it her best in the first set against Mauresmo immediately putting the former world number one on her back foot, who only took the lead in the seventh game at 4-3 converting the first break of the match. *AFP*



JONATHAN Byrd watches his drive off the sixth tee during the final round. AP

Byrd snares Deere plum

SILVIS, ILLINOIS—JONATHAN BYRD BIRDIED three of his last five holes here Sunday to surge past South African Tim Clark and win the John Deere Classic.

The third US PGA Tour win of Byrd's career also earned him a berth in next week's British Open at Carnoustie and next year's Masters.

He was more excited about that than the $738,000 winner's check.

"I haven't played in the British yet, and every time I watch it on TV, I just can't wait to get over there," Byrd said.

Byrd posted a five-under 66 for an 18-under total of 266, one shot in front of Clark, who carded a 68.

Byrd's round included birdies at 14, 16 and 17.

Clark had opened up a three-shot lead at the turn but still came up short in his search for his first US PGA Tour victory.

Third-round leader Nathan Green of Australia, who was also seeking his first US tour win, posted a 71 and finished tied for third with American Troy Matteson (66) on 15-under. *AFP*

Pak rules Corning Classic a fifth time, equals record

SYLVANIA, OHIO—SOUTH KOREan Hall of Famer Se Ri Pak joined another exclusive club on Sunday with her victory in the $1.3 million Jamie Farr Owens Corning Classic.

Pak posted a four-under 67 for a three-stroke victory, becoming just the third player—along with Mickey Wright and Annika Sorenstam—to win the same LPGA event five times.

At 17-under 267, Pak finished three shots ahead of Morgan Pressel, who finished at 270 after a 68 that included a hole-in-one at the par-three sixth hole.

SE RI PAK

"It wasn't an easy day for me today," said Pak, who had back-to-back bogeys at four and five but responded to that—and Pressel's hole-in-one—with birdies at six, eight and nine.

"She is just good," Pak said of the 19-year-old Pressel. 'Just after she made the ace, it made me say, 'Hey, you better work really hard, otherwise the game is over.'

Pak regained the lead for good with a birdie at 15, and also birdied 17. She led by one heading to 18, where Pressel pulled her drive left into the gallery which led to a bogey. Pak split the fairway with a three-wood and birdied the hole to clinch the win and claim the first prize of $195,000.

"I knew Morgan had trouble, but you never know, it could be holding from her distance," Pak said of her thoughts at 18, where she knocked a sand wedge within a foot of the pin. "I knew I still have to finish in a good way.

"I only have 85 to the pin, and I've got a perfect club in my hand, and I'm trying to finish a good way, which is trying to make a birdie. I didn't mean it to be that close, but the gallery liked it." Pak was thrilled to add another big accomplishment to her 2007 season, in which she has completed the requirements for the Hall of Fame. *AFP*

Dodgers cut Giants to size; Phillies set sport losing record

SAN FRANCISCO—THE LOS ANGeles Dodgers won for the 11th consecutive time in San Francisco as Giants slugger Barry Bonds was hitless in a 5-3 loss on Sunday.

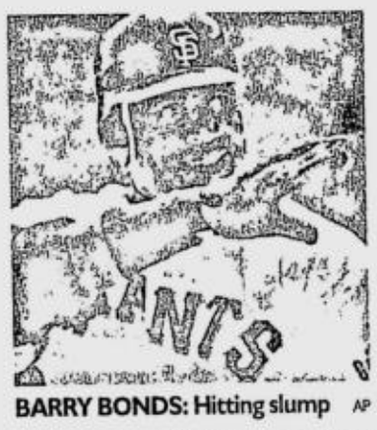
Rafael Furcal broke a 3-3 tie with a sixth-inning triple and scored on Juan Pierre's squeeze bunt to send the Giants to their fourth consecutive loss.

Bonds, who is four career home runs shy of Hank Aaron's all-time record of 755, went 0-for-5 for a second straight day.

He has no hit in his last 20 at-bats over six games.

"It's an embarrassment to me to wear this uniform and that's all it is," the 42-year-old Bonds told reporters.

Albert Pujols homered twice as the St. Louis Cardinals sent the Philadelphia Phillies to their 10,000th franchise loss, a 10-2 crushing. With the defeat, the Phillies became the first US team in any professional sport to lose 10,000 games. They have an 8,810-10,000 record in 125 years. *Reuters*



BARRY BONDS: Hitting slump AP

Phil blows win; Tiger likes Carnoustie

CARNOUSTIE, SCOTLAND—Phil Mickelson insists it is better for him to spend the week before major tournaments honing his game in a competitive environment.

But the American left-hander might be reconsidering that belief in the wake of a Scottish Open experience that will have done little for his confidence as he crosses from the west to the east of Scotland for this week's British Open at Carnoustie.

Although the world number three played some excellent golf at Loch Lomond, he will be haunted by the knowledge that a first tour-level victory on European soil was his for the taking and he blew it with a string of wayward drives when the pressure was on.

The history books will record that unheralded Frenchman Gregory Havret produced a nerveless 68 to take Mickelson (69) into a play-off which he won with a par.

But the American will be painfully aware that Havret only got his chance because of the trouble that Mickelson had in finding the fairway off the tee.

WOODS: Focused

Poor drives resulted in dropped shots at the 14th, 16th and 18th holes and it was another one that cost him the victory when they played the 18th for a second time.

The contrast with Tiger Woods' build-up to the Open could hardly have been more marked.

The world number one never plays the week before and after his now-traditional Sunday warm-up round, he gave Mickelson and co. cause for concern by declaring his liking for the way the Carnoustie course has been set up.

Woods, who will be bidding for his third successive triumph in the world's oldest major, was undone by a combination of the wind and the 'Carnasty' rough when the Open was last played at the east coast venue in 1999, finishing seventh in a tournament won by Paul Lawrie.

This time around, Woods believes the R and A have delivered an outstanding test of golf.

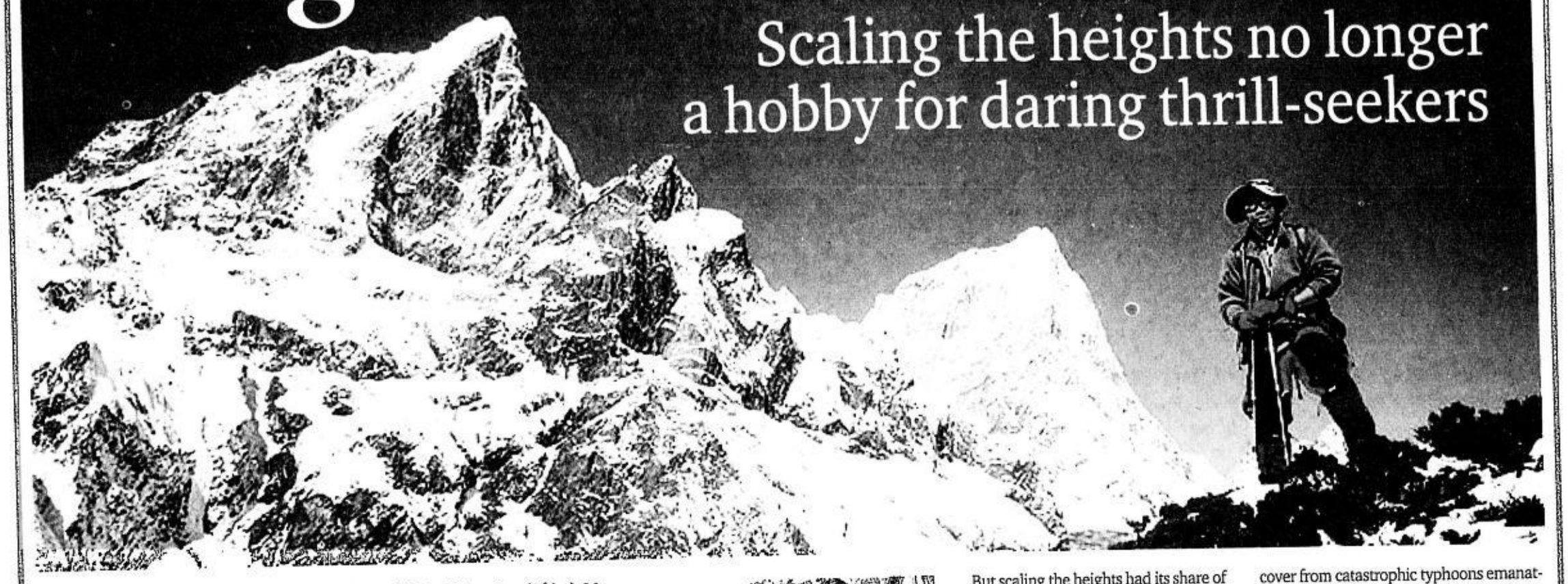
"It's really nice, really fair," Woods said. "Has it changed from the last time I was here?—you might say that!"

Former Open winner Sandy Lyle has backed Woods to celebrate the recent birth of his daughter Sam by winning his 13th major here. *AFP*

SPORTS

A high for mountaineers

Scaling the heights no longer a hobby for daring thrill-seekers



By June Navarro

WEEKS AFTER FIGHTING OFF THE biting cold and thin air, an exhausted Leo Oracion felt emotional upon reaching the summit of Mt. Everest.

"The Philippine eagle has landed," Oracion said minutes after his historic climb on May 2006.

It was a moment all mountaineers aspire for.

While most athletes look up to the Olympics as the Holy Grail, backpackers dream about reaching the peak of what mountaineers call the "seven summits."

"[Mountaineering] presents a different challenge each time you climb a mountain," said Henry Nakpil, president of the UP Mountaineers.

The seven summits have an altitude of at least 8,000 meters with Mt. Everest the highest at 29,029 feet.

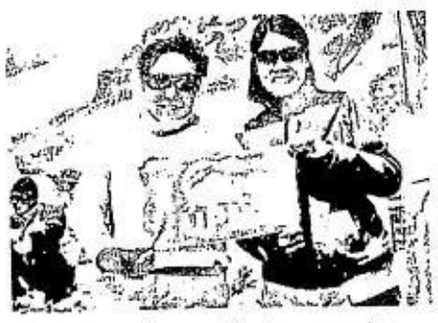
Mt. Everest in Nepal heads the cast along with Mt. Kilimanjaro (Africa), Mt. Elbrus (Europe), Mt. Denali (Alaska), Mt. Aconcagua (Chile), Mt. Vinson (Antartica) and Carstensz Pyramid (Indonesia).

"If you're into [mountaineering], any sport will be easy after learning the fundamentals."

According to Nakpil, athletes from extreme sports such as rock climbing and lung-busting events like triathlon include mountaineering as part of their training regimen.

"These athletes usually cross-train to mountaineering because it doesn't only develop your motor skills; it also builds your confidence," said UPM director Ninoy Leyran.

The twin Mt. Everest expeditions featuring UP Mountaineers Romy Garduce, Janet Belarmino and Noelle Wenceslao have formally introduced mountaineering in the Filipino psyche as a sport and not just a hobby for thrill-seekers.



PINOYS at the world's top summit: Noelle Wenceslao, Janet Belarmino and Romy Garduce (top)

Garduce was part of the first Filipino odyssey to Mt. Everest last year along with Oracion and Erwin Emata.

Early this year, Belarmino and Wenceslao teamed up with Carina Dayondon and made history by becoming the first women climbers from Southeast Asia to reach the world's highest peak.

But scaling the heights had its share of tragedies.

"Accidents could be prevented if the climbers work as a team from the trek up to the descent," noted Leyran.

UPM alone had lost four members during a flash flood in Mt. Guiting-Guiting way back in 1984, just one of the several deaths that hit the sport in a span of three decades.

"Since then, we have installed safety and preventive measures to prevent another accident," said Leyran.

Locally, Nakpil said trekking the entire stretch of the Sierra Madre mountains from Cagayan in Northern Luzon to Quezon province in Southern Luzon would be the most gratifying experience for Filipino climbers.

But Nakpil warned: "Aside from being expensive and time consuming, the peace and order situation there is volatile."

The Sierra Madre, which serves as a cover from catastrophic typhoons emanating from the Pacific Ocean, is believed to be infested with political insurgents.

Other mountains such as Mt. Apo (Davao), Mt. Halcon (Mindoro) and Mt. Banahaw (Quezon) have been closed by the government to the public to keep the forest reserves safe from illegal loggers and preserve the habitat for rare species and organisms, among others.

"As a result, it forces us to look for other mountains where we could bring our sport," said Nakpil. "We make sure that every time we climb, safety and protecting the environment are the paramount concerns."

UPM, which celebrated its 30th anniversary on June 28, has a membership of 800 climbers nationwide but only 35 of them remain active.

But the group believes that the feat of Filipino Everest climbers made many Filipinos take a peek at the sport once again.

Japanese, Taiwanese head tough Pony field

POWERHOUSES JAPAN AND CHINESE-Taipei head the small but elite cast seeing action in the 32nd Pony Internationals-Asia Pacific Bronco Championships set July 21 to 26 in Angeles City.

Two Philippine squads of 11- to 12-year-old batters are also seeking the crown and the right to represent Asia in the Pony World Series in Monterey, California, this year, according to the Philippine Tot Baseball Foundation (PTBF).

Hong Kong is also sending a team to the tournament.

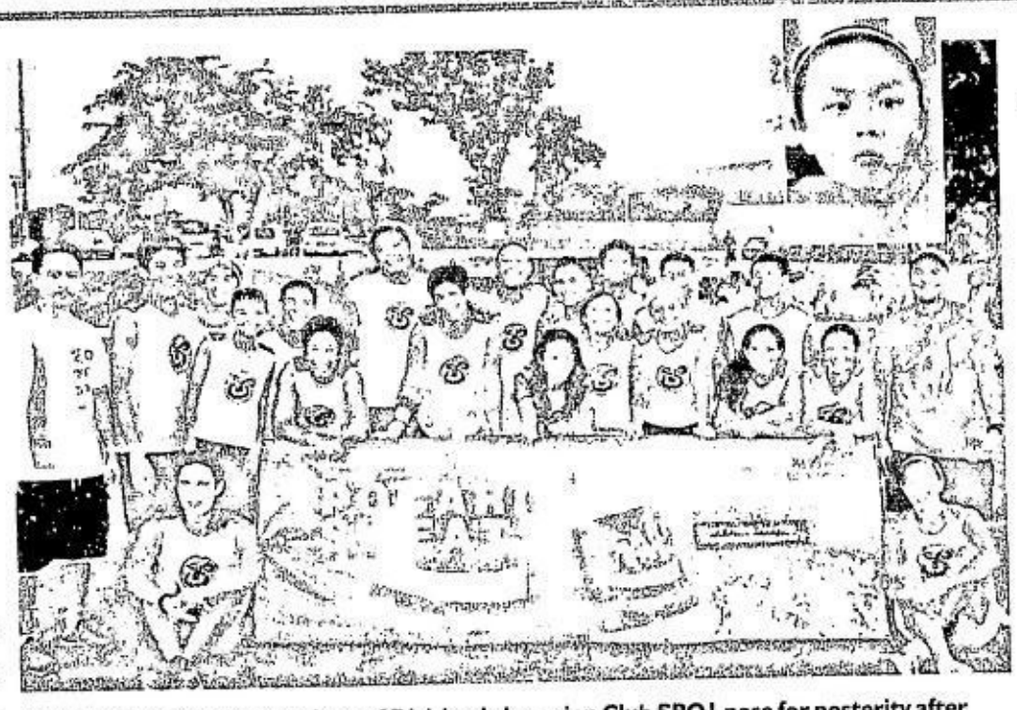
The Philippines won its last Asia Pacific Championships in 1989. It went on to win the World Series that same year.

Asian teams make it as world champions 80 percent of the time in the World Series, according to PTBF officials.

The RP nines will be made up of a selection from Central Luzon and another from Metro Manila. They will be handled by top coaches and supervised by the PTBF, headed by Rodolfo Tingzon Jr.

The federation, in cooperation with Rotary Clubs of Clark Centennial, Mabalacat and Pasay Silangan, is planning an elaborate welcome for the foreign teams.

Marc Anthony Reyes



BRAGGING RIGHTS: Members of Division I champion Club SPOI pose for posterity after topping the recent Pocari Sweat Ultimate Club Championships. The tournament's best player—Pia Ybañez (inset)—however, came from Club Azkals, the team SPOI vanquished in the finals. Ybañez made it to the Mythical 7 along with Gali Gonzales of K3, Dre Barandiaran of A-Bomb, Christian Guerrero of SPOI, Cocoy Navarro of A-Bomb, Peng Manlapaz of SPOI, and Nica Hechanova of the Disc Devils. The top clubs and individual awardees were later feted during a Pocari Sweat party at Warehouse 135 in Yakal, Makati.

Asian karting 2nd leg blasts off Thursday

TOP FILIPINO DRIVERS GEAR UP FOR battle against their counterparts in the region in the second leg of the 2007 Asian Karting Open Championship slated Thursday to Sunday at Carmona Circuit Philippines.

Over 60 karters from nine countries are expected to vie for nine category titles in the annual event also known as the 2007 Shell Helix-Casino Filipino Kart Grand Prix.

Crack bets from China and Japan are the latest additions to the tough field. Karters from Macau, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand are already in the fold.

Macau drivers appear to be the biggest threat to the Philippines' bid for the overall title.

Without any Filipino rival in their respective divisions, Macau's Johnny Afonso and Mak Ka-lok bagged top honors in the Macau kickoff leg last month.

The Filipinos, on the other hand, are hoping to match last year's outstanding feat of eight titles out of nine disputed.

Jet Racing karters Vencer John Suba and Christian Gaddi bannered the country's campaign in the Macau kickoff leg with Suba delivering two victories.

He bested Malaysian Mitchell Gilbert and Juha Turalba for the ROK Junior crown and later towed Javi Benitez to a 1-2 finish for the Philippines in the Formula 125 Open Junior class.

Gaddi claimed the Cadet 60 title over teammate Vei-Ar Suba.

Defending Asian champion Marlon Stockinger and 2006 Philippine leg champion Ivan Carapiet have yet to confirm their participation but the Philippines is pinning its hopes on the top three karters in the local karting series—Jean Stefano Marcelo, Matteo Guidicelli and Mark Bumgarner in the Formula 125 Seniors Open and the ROK Seniors.

Lady Stags, Staglets down St. Benilde volley squads

GAMES TODAY
(San Sebastian College Gym)
8 a.m.—San Beda vs Perpetual Help (Jrs/Women/Men)

DEFENDING WOMEN'S AND JUNIORS CHAMPION San Sebastian College grabbed the early lead in the NCAA volleyball tournament last weekend at their home gym on Recto Avenue in Manila.

Bucking the loss of injured hitter Joy Benito, the two-time Shakey's V-League runners-up Lady Stags repulsed 2005 NCAA champion St. Benilde Lady Blazers, 25-18, 25-22, 25-15, while the Staglets defeated their La Salle Green Hills counterparts, 22-25, 25-20, 25-21, 27-25.

St. Benilde prevented a San Sebastian sweep after its men's team won, 27-25, 25-15, 25-19, to improve its record to 2-0.

The Lady Stags, who relied on old reliables Sasa Devanadera and Joy Pulido, remained unscathed after two outings.

Action resumes today at the Recto venue when San Beda meets University of Perpetual Help in the juniors, women's and men's divisions starting at 8 a.m.

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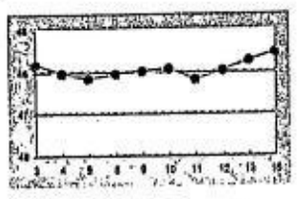
Gov't sees strong growth in second quarter

More infrastructure funds readied

INDICATORS



₱ 45.55 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 16, 2007

CONSUMER DEMAND AND EXPENDITURE RELATED to congressional elections has continued to boost the economy in the second quarter after a stellar first quarter, according to a senior economic official.

"We see indicators for strong growth for (the second quarter)," Dennis Arroyo, head of policy planning at the economic planning agency, told Reuters in an interview.

"For example, note that election spending, a big factor in (the first quarter), peaked not in Q1 but in Q2. Secondly, even the stock market peaked not in Q1 but also in Q2 and going on this month."

"We see signs of strong consumer spending, in particular car sales were quite up. So, (the second quarter) will be strong."

The Philippines enjoyed its highest annual growth in 17 years in the first

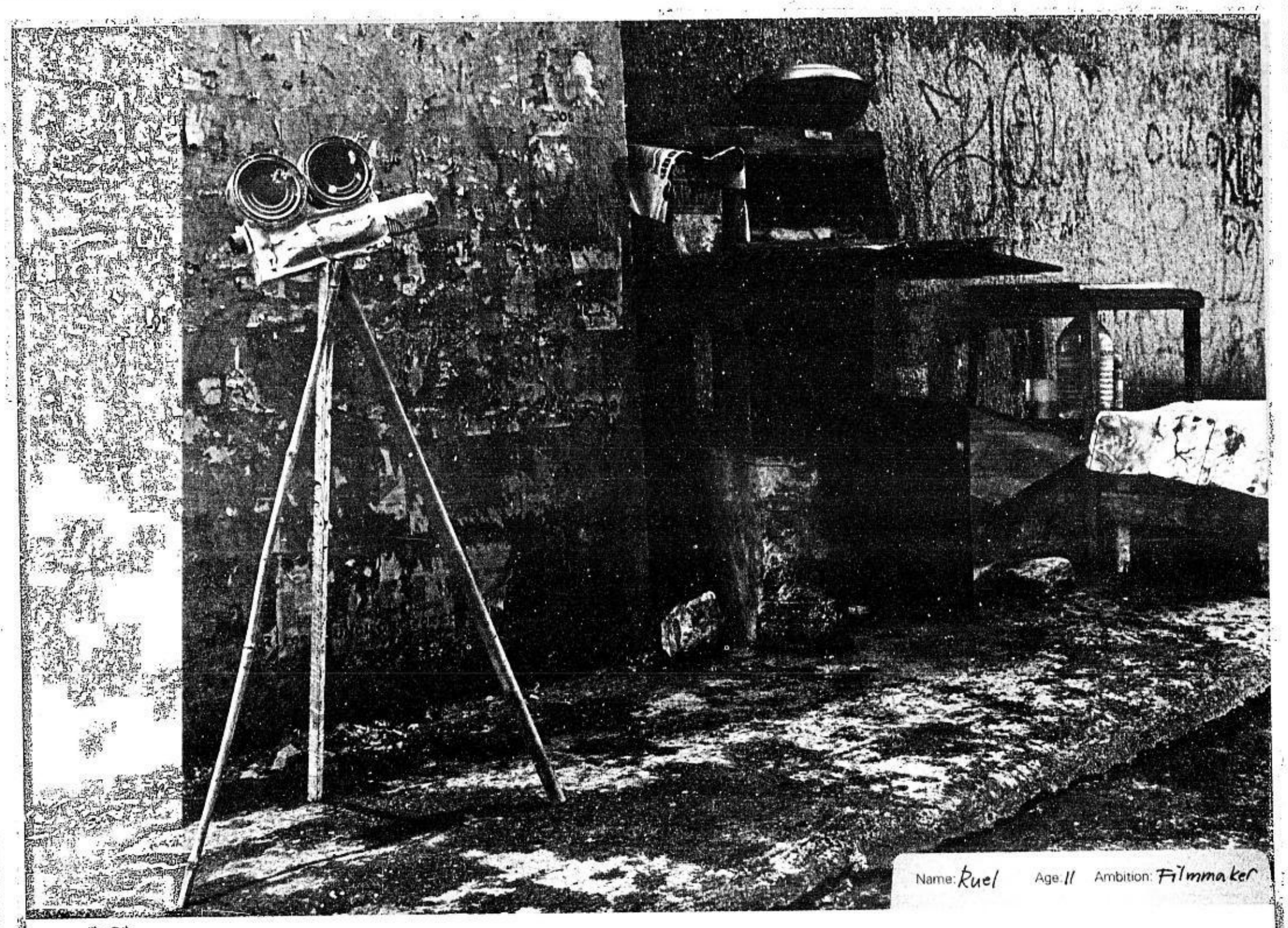
GOV'T/ B4

IN THIS ISSUE

BREAKTIME ■ One weigh /B2

■ GMA 7 raises P5.4B from foreign investors /B4

■ 6-mo dollar inflows beat BSP target /B8



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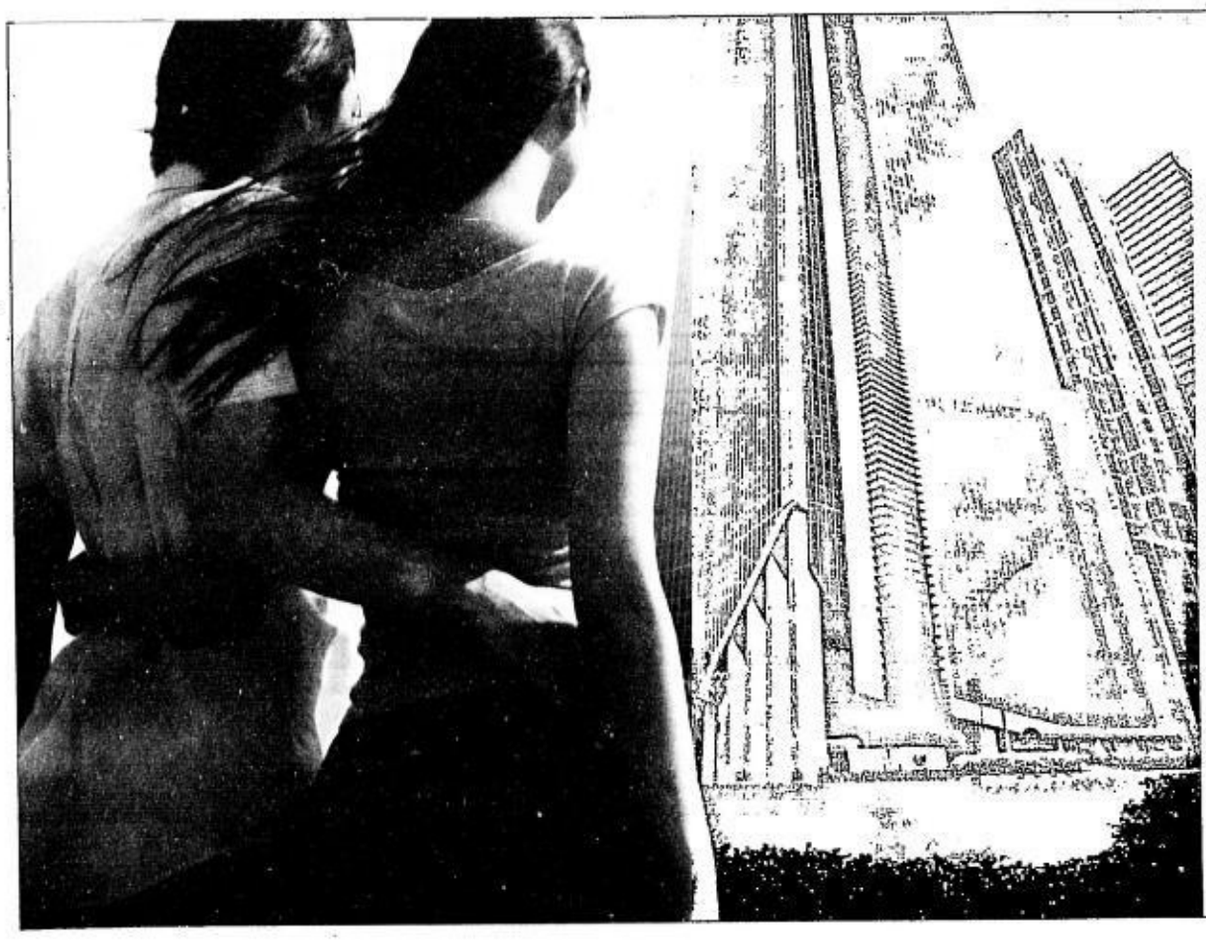

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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

CAUGHT IN THE ACT ONLY ABOUT two weeks ago at the Subic Bay free port was—surprise—the "smuggling" of power generators.

From what I heard, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) already intercepted the container vans containing the generators.

What do you know—one of the gallant Cabinet members of this cute administration of Gloriaetta interceded for the smuggling syndicate.

Supposedly, our hero made representation to the authorities that the "importers" would use the shipment (by the container vans, mind you) only for trade exhibition.

In other words, the lucky sons of their mothers did not have to pay for the duties and taxes.

I wonder what "exhibition" the good Cabinet secretary was talking about that would need mere "samples" by the truckloads.

And so the rumor mills started churning tales about some P200 million as ...well, "hush" money.

The unkindest cut of it all went to the Cabinet member and somebody big in Customs, who were said to have split between them the you-know-what.

* * *

RECENTLY, from out of the blue and for the first time, the PCCI stepped into the ongoing clash in big business on this cute administration's "open skies" policy.

Such a policy, as everybody knows except perhaps DOTC officials, has a ring of US influence in it. Washington has been its leading sponsor worldwide.

The PCCI thought it wise for us, the public, to weigh the issues, as it pitted the "anti" and the "pro" sides in a forum.

To me it was a big letdown. Everybody turned out to be in favor of "open skies," including the Filipino airlines PAL, Air Philippines, Cebu Pacific and Asian Spirit.

It's just that the local boys want the "rights" to be given to foreign airlines gradually and, if it is not to much to ask of this cute administration, that the other countries also give the same "rights" to the local boys.

The way it goes today, this cute administration gives away "rights" to foreign airlines without anything in return for our boys.

"Open skies," the Gloriaetta version, is simply a one-way deal, period!

* * *

SUCH is evident in the controversial "EO 500 series," which are executive orders of Gloriaetta, giving foreign airlines unlimited access to Clark and Subic, even if their own governments are not wiling to give the same "rights" to Philippine airlines.

What's more, the EO 500-A (the sequel to the original EO 500) allowed foreign airlines to use Clark and Subic as jump-off points to a third country.

Know what—no foreign airline is using the rights offered by EO 500-A!

Apparently to sweeten the pot, the Palace is readying another order, called "EO 500-B," which will give the same "rights" to foreign airlines, even if they are not designated by their own governments as deserving of such "rights."

In short, it's desperation time for this cute administration!

* * *

ALL THOSE against the "EO-500 series" in the PCCI-sponsored forum talked about give-and-take in our pursuit of this cute administration's "open skies" policy.

In effect, they are asking that we use air agreements with other governments to help the local boys to get access to the markets abroad.

That is missing in the "EO-500 series," which eventually will weaken the local boys. If they die, the foreign airlines enjoying the EO-500 series today, will surely take advantage by jacking their rates way up to another universe.

Such already happened a few years ago during PAL's temporary closure, when Singapore Airlines doubled its ticket prices between Manila and Singapore.

* * *

AND SO the crux of the matter is fairness. If this cute administration grants "rights" to foreign airlines like it were only giving away toilet paper, the local airlines must get the same "rights" from the governments of those airlines.

For example, the Philippine-based airline called "Asian Spirit" wanted to fly between Clark and Macau, perhaps encouraged by the "EO-500 series."

Guess what—Macau denied its application without much ado, thank you.

Yet the Singapore-based Tiger Air flies freely between Macau and Clark.

And so that's what this "EO-500 series" is all about: Our own boys are at the losing end of the deal, and their own government is leaving them defenceless. What else is new?

As one Cebu Pacific executive commented, maybe it is better for "local" airlines to register as "foreign" airlines so that they can get similar treatment as Tiger Air, for instance.

* * *

NOW, AS if it was trying to justify the EO-500 series, our very own DOTC talked about an "exponential increase" in airline traffic in Clark. Yeah, right!

Our brilliant DOTC forgot to say that the (what was the big word again) "exponential" traffic increase was one-way, with mostly Filipinos flying out of Clark to go to other countries.

And where are the foreign tourists that the proponents (i.e. well-funded lobby groups) of the "EO-500 series" promised this cute administration?

Well, they all went to China, most probably.

Look, if it is true that the "EO-500 series" will bring in the foreign tourists by the sheer existence of more flights, why did the European airlines closed down operations here?

Those airlines were already flying to Manila. We did not need "open skies" or whatever. They were already here. Yet they closed down here. They simply did not have enough passengers.

What happened to the "foreign tourists" that the mere existence of flights was supposed to bring into the country?

For what could not be talked about openly during the PCCI forum was the fact that the "EO-500 series" was the result of a lobby with this cute administration—a well-funded one at that.

From what I hear, the group wrote the EO series. Malacañang swallowed it hook, line and sinker!

I say let's just stop this charade.

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6-mo dollar inflows beat BSP target

From page B8

home through the banking system—the biggest contributor to the BOP surplus—continued to rise in the first five months of 2007 to $5.9 billion, representing a 21.9-percent increase over the level posted in the same period last year.

Remittances in May 2007 alone stood at $1.2 billion. This marks the 13th consecutive month that remittances were above the $1 billion mark, Tetangco said, adding that the central bank was expecting total remittances to reach $14 billion by yearend.

According to the central bank, the growth of remittances year-to-date was due largely to technological innovations introduced by financial institutions that serve as conduits for money transfers.

As a result of these measures and other initiatives to facilitate remittance flows through formal channels, remittances remained strong even as the number of deployed Filipino workers contracted for the first five months of 2007, he added.

Basilan, Tawi-Tawi linked via microwave backbone

LEADING WIRELESS SERVICES provider Smart Communications Inc. yesterday said it had connected the far-flung, off-grid island provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi through terrestrial microwave radio, making available in these areas new services such as 3G cellular services and high-speed broadband Internet.

Smart has installed on six strategic mountain-top areas relay stations that formed the backbone of a communications highway connecting the three provinces to the Mindanao mainland via SDH microwave radio.

A terrestrial link, such as SDH microwave radio system, provides a more stable, reliable and efficient wireless connection than via satellite (VSAT), which had previously been used to link these provinces.

The enhancement of Smart's cellular and broadband Internet networks benefits the residents of the 37 municipalities of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi by allowing them to use applications previously unavailable to them because of the relatively limited bandwidth capacity of VSAT. These new services include multimedia messaging (MMS), GRPS and Internet-surfing via their mobile handsets via GPRS.

Smart has blanketed Jolo, the capital of Sulu, with 3rd generation cellular coverage, allowing residents access to such services as video calling, video streaming, high-speed Internet browsing, and downloading of special 3G content.

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GMA

GMA Network Inc. / GMA Holdings Inc.
Initial Public Offering of Common Shares and Philippine Deposit Receipts

As part of the combined initial public offering, GMA Network Inc. and GMA Holdings Inc. (collectively, the "Offering Companies") are offering to local small investors ("LSI") 30,449,000 common shares (the "Offer Shares") and 60,897,000 Philippine Deposit Receipts (the "PDRs") at P 8.50 for each Offer Share or PDR. Each LSI applicant is entitled to apply for only one thousand (1,000) Offer Shares OR one thousand (1,000) PDRs; any Application for an amount of Offer Shares or PDRs other than these specified amounts may be rejected by either of the Issuers or the Domestic Lead Underwriter.

LSI Applicants may submit their applications and payments to the offices of ATR KimEng Capital Partners ("ATR"); BDO Capital and Investment Corporation ("BDO"), First Metro Investment Corporation ("FMIC"), Unicapital Incorporated ("Unicapital"), Abacus Capital and Investment Corporation ("Abacus"); Pentacapital Investment Corporation ("Pentacapital"), RCBC Capital Corporation ("RCBC Capital"); Asian Alliance and Investment Corporation ("AAIC") and Union Bank of the Philippines ("UBP").

LSI applicants may use the attached LSI Application (please submit four (4) copies) and signature card (which may be secured from any of the underwriters) or procure an LSI Application from any of the offices indicated above. Each LSI applicant is allowed to submit only one (1) LSI Application and must submit the duly accomplished LSI Application form in person together with two valid and current government-issued IDs with the applicant's picture and signature (passport, drivers' license, SSS, GSIS and PRC). Only Philippine Citizens over 18 years of age or companies or associations wholly-owned and managed by Philippine citizens may apply for the Offer Shares. Other Philippine residents, regardless of nationality, may apply for the PDRs.

Payment may be made by check issued by the applicant and drawn against any bank branch in Metro Manila. All duly accomplished LSI Application forms and corresponding payments must be submitted to any of the designated branches on or before 11:00 a.m. of July 23, 2007.

In the event of an oversubscription in either or both of the Offer Shares or PDRs, a lottery will be conducted to determine the LSI applicants that will be awarded their preferred instrument. LSI Applicants may indicate in the application form if they are willing to subscribe to the other instrument (if available) if their preferred instrument is oversubscribed.

All LSI applicants are strongly urged to read the Offer terms and conditions in the LSI Application form as well as in the Prospectus. Copies of the Prospectus may be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Stock Exchange at www.pse.com.ph.

For inquiries, please call:

ATRKE	(02) 849 8988	Abacus	(02) 634 5104	BDO	(02) 633 2076
FMIC	(02) 241 4301 to 07	Pentacapital	(02) 815 8066	RCBC Capital	(02) 894 9000
Unicapital	(02) 892 0991	Union Bank	(02) 638 0197	AAIC	(02) 856 0501

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE SALE/PURCHASE OF OFFER SHARES IN GMA NETWORK, INC. AND PDRs ISSUED BY GMA HOLDINGS, INC.

The terms and conditions of the Offer are found in the Prospectus dated July 14, 2007. For a summary description of the Terms of the Offer, the Applicant is advised to refer to the section entitled "Summary of the Offer" in the Prospectus.

1. **The Offer** – The Offer, consisting of 91,346,000 Offer Shares and 872,115,000 PDRs to be issued and offered by GMA Network, Inc., certain Selling Shareholders and GMA Holdings Inc. (collectively, the "Offering Companies") respectively. Up to 639,423,000 PDRs are being offered and sold (i) outside the Philippines and the United States to non U.S. persons in reliance on Regulation S under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended and (ii) in the United States to qualified institutional buyers in reliance on Rule 144A under the U.S. Securities Act. GMA Network Inc. and GMA Holdings Inc. are offering in the Philippines a total of 91,346,000 Offer Shares and 182,692,000 PDRs (the "Domestic Offer"). Of the Domestic Offer, 60,897,000 Offer Shares and 121,795,000 PDRs are being offered for distribution to the Trading Participants of the PSE, and 30,449,000 Offer Shares and 60,897,000 PDRs are being offered to Local Small Investors.

2. **Eligible Investor** – Investment in the Offer Shares is open only to individuals who are Philippine citizens who are over 18 years of age, or companies, associations and other entities wholly-owned and managed by Philippine citizens. The PDRs may be held by any person regardless of nationality.

3. **Offer Price** – The Offer Price for the Offer Shares or PDRs is P 8.50 per Offer Share or PDR.

4. **LSI Offer Period** – The Offer Period to LSIs shall commence on Tuesday, July 17, 2007 and end at 11:00 a.m. on July 23, 2007.

5. **Domestic Offer Period** – The Domestic Offer Period shall commence on July 17, 2007 and shall close at 11:00 a.m. on July 23, 2007 for LSIs, PSE Trading Participants and investors other than the domestic underwriters. The Domestic Offer Period shall close on July 24, 2007 for the Domestic Lead Underwriter and other domestic sub-underwriters. The Issuing Companies and the Domestic Lead Underwriter, in consultation with the International Lead Manager, hereby reserve the right to extend or terminate the Offer Period at any time, with the approval of the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission and Philippine Stock Exchange.

6. **Subscription Amount** – Applicants may subscribe to 1,000 PDRs or 1,000 Offer Shares. Any other order amount will be rejected.

7. **Application and Acceptance** – A duly and fully accomplished Application in four (4) copies together with a) duly executed signature card, the appropriate cashier's/manager's check payment, and required documents must be received by the Domestic Lead Underwriter and/or its designated receiving agent on or before close of the Offer Period. **Multiple applications by one applicant will not be allowed.** GMA Network, Inc. and GMA Holdings, Inc., through the Domestic Lead Underwriter, reserve the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, any Application. Applications where checks are dishonored upon first presentation and Applications which do not comply with the terms of the Domestic Offer shall be rejected. Moreover, receipt of any payment pursuant to the Application does not mean approval or acceptance by the Company of the Application.

8. **Payment** – The Total Purchase Price shall be paid in full in Philippine currency upon the submission of a duly executed Application, signature card, and other required documents. Applicants shall pay for the PDRs or Offer Shares through a manager's check or corporate check drawn against a bank account with a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas ("BSP")-authorized agent bank or any branch thereof, located in Metro Manila. Checks should be dated as of the date of submission of the Application, made payable to "GMA Public Offer", and crossed "Payee's Account Only".

9. **Refunds** – In the event that an Application is rejected, then the Company shall refund, without interest, within five Banking Days from the end of the Domestic Offer Period. All refunds shall be made through the Domestic Lead Underwriter or Domestic Selling Agent with whom the applicant has filed the Application, at the applicant's risk.

10. **PDTC Lodgment** – All of the PDRs and Common Shares will be lodged with the Philippine Depository and Trust Corp. ("PDTC") on or before the Listing Date. The Applicant must provide the additional information required for PDTC-lodged Offer Shares.

11. **Registration of Foreign Investments** – Neither the Offering Companies nor the Domestic Lead Underwriter undertake to register any foreign investment with respect to the PDRs with the BSP. It shall be the obligation of any foreign investor to register his/its foreign investment with the BSP to allow such shareholder to source foreign currency from the Philippine banking system for the repatriation of capital and remittance of dividends pertaining to the PDRs.

12. **Representation and Warranty of Foreign Investors in the PDRs** – Applicants who are not Philippine citizens or which are corporations that are not Philippine nationals represent and warrant that their investment in the PDRs being applied for will not violate the rules of their respective jurisdictions, and that acquiring and investing in the PDRs are permitted in such jurisdictions. The Offer Shares and PDRs have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and may not be offered or sold within the United States or to, or for the account or benefit of, "U.S. Persons" (as defined in Regulation S under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended).

13. **Submission** – LSI Applicants may submit their applications and payments to the following offices or their designated branches on or before 11:00 a.m. of July 23, 2007:

ATR KimEng Capital Partners Inc. (tel. 849 8988)
BDO Capital and Investment Corporation (tel. 633 2076)
RCBC Capital Corporation (tel. 894 9000)
Abacus Capital and Investment Corporation (tel. 634 5104)
First Metro Investment Corporation (tel. 241 4301)
Unicapital Incorporated (tel. 892 0991)
Asian Alliance and Investment Corporation (tel. 885 0601)
Pentacapital Investment Corporation (tel. 815 8066)
Union Bank of the Philippines (tel. 638 0197)

14. **Listing and Trading Date** – Listing and trading of the Offer Shares and the PDRs on the PSE is expected to commence on July 30, 2007.

IN 4 COPIES:
WHITE - Applicant
BLUE - Stock Transfer Agent
PINK - Domestic Lead Underwriter
YELLOW – Acknowledgment

No.

GMA

APPLICATION TO SUBSCRIBE OR PURCHASE
Offer to Local Small Investors ("LSI") of up to 60,897,000 Philippine Deposit Receipts ("PDRs") and 30,449,000 Primary Common Shares ("Offer Shares")

This Application Form, to be completed in four (4) copies, together with a duly executed signature card, the appropriate corporate or manager's check payment, and all required attachments must be received by the Domestic Lead Underwriter not later than 11:00 a.m., Manila Time, on Monday July 23, 2007. Applications received thereafter or without the attachments specified below will be rejected. This Application is irrevocable and once received, may not be withdrawn by the Applicant.

GMA Network, Inc., GMA Holdings, Inc. and certain Selling Shareholders (collectively, the "Offering Companies") through ATR KimEng Capital Partners, Inc. (the "Domestic Lead Underwriter"), reserve the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, this Application. Applications improperly or incompletely accomplished may be rejected. In case of over-subscription, the Offering Companies, by themselves or through the Domestic Lead Underwriter, reserve the right to allocate the Offer Shares available to Applicants in the manner they deem appropriate.

Capitalized terms used herein shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Prospectus dated July 14, 2007.

An Application, once accepted and approved by the Offering Companies, through the Domestic Lead Underwriter, shall constitute a binding subscription and purchase agreement between the Offering Companies and the Applicant for the purchase of the Offer Shares at the time, in the manner, and subject to (a) the conditions set forth herein, (b) the Offering Companies' receipt of the appropriate payment from the Applicant and (c) upon the underwriting and purchase obligations of the Domestic Lead Underwriter becoming unconditional and not being suspended, terminated or cancelled, on or before the conclusion of such obligations. Please note that as disclosed in the Prospectus in the section entitled "Plan of Distribution", the closing of the International Offer is conditional on the closing of the Domestic Offer.

APPLICATION

EACH LSI APPLICANT MAY APPLY TO PURCHASE ONLY 1,000 OFFER SHARES OR 1,000 PDRS. ANY OTHER ORDER AMOUNT WILL BE REJECTED.
The Offer Shares may be purchased only by Philippine Citizens or companies, associations and other entities wholly-owned or managed by Philippine Citizens. Individual applicants must be over 18 years of age. MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS BY ONE APPLICANT WILL BE NOT BE ALLOWED.
Failure to follow these conditions may result in the scaling down or rejection of the Application

I/We apply to subscribe/purchase the following under the terms and conditions stated herein and in the Prospectus for the Offer, as follows (check one box only):

☐ One Thousand (1,000) Offer Shares Only at P 8.50 per Offer Share for a Total Purchase Price of P 8,500.00

☐ One Thousand (1,000) PDRs Only at P 8.50 per PDR for a Total Purchase Price of P 8,500.00

For all applicants: In the event that your preferred instrument is oversubscribed, are you willing to accept the other instrument, if that other instrument is still available?
☐ Yes ☐ No

PDTC LODGEMENT OF PDR CERTIFICATES OR STOCK CERTIFICATES
All Applicants are required to lodge their Offer Shares or PDRs with the PDTC

Stockbroker / PDTC Participant Firm, PDTC Participant Code, PDTC Sub-Account Code	We confirm that we are a PDTC Participant and that the Applicant named in this Application is our bona fide client Signature of Authorized Signatory of Stockbroker / PDTC Participant

PAYMENT

The PDRs and Common Shares must be paid for with cash or **manager's or corporate check** drawn against a bank account with a *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*-authorized agent bank or any branch thereof, located in Metro Manila. Checks should be dated as of the date of submission of the Application, made payable to "GMA Public Offer".

DRAWEE BANK/BRANCH	CHECK NO.	AMOUNT

REPRESENTATIONS WARRANTIES AND AUTHORIZATION

I/We represent and warrant that all information contained herein and the attached documents are true and correct. I/We warrant having read and understood and relied solely upon the provisions of the Prospectus and the terms and conditions stated within this Application, and unconditionally accept said terms and conditions. I/We warrant that I/we qualify as an eligible investor described under paragraph 2 of the attached terms and conditions. I/We understand that no person has been authorized to give information or to make any representation with respect to the Offer Shares or PDRs other than those specified in the Prospectus. I/we further represent that I am not/we are not/our client named as an Applicant in this Application is not a "U.S. Person" within the meaning of Regulation S under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended. The Applicant hereby instructs and authorizes the Offering Companies and/or the Domestic Lead Underwriter to execute any application form or other documents and generally to do all such other things as the Offering Companies or the Domestic Lead Underwriter may consider necessary or desirable to effect the registration in the name of the Applicant of the Offer Shares and/or PDRs applied for, or any lesser number in respect of which an Application may be accepted, in the Stock and Transfer Book of the Offering Companies. The Applicant undertakes to sign all documents and to do all other acts necessary to enable the Applicant to be registered as the owner of the Offer Shares or PDRs applied for or any lesser number in respect of which the Application may be accepted, subject to the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of the Offering Companies and the laws of the Republic of the Philippines.

NAME OF APPLICANT (IN PRINT)	SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT		DATE
ADDRESS	NATIONALITY	TELEPHONE NUMBER/S	TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

ACKNOWLEDGMENT (Applicants should not fill in this section)

Received by: _____
Date: _____
Total Number of Offer Shares Accepted: _____
Total Number of PDRs Accepted: _____
By: _____
Date: _____

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS TO THIS APPLICATION
For Individual Applicants (pls note that individual applicants are required to personally submit their applications)
Photocopy of any two valid and current government issued identification (passport, driver's license, SSS, GSIS or PRC) with the Applicant's picture and signature

For Corporate Applicants
☐ A duly executed signature card in the form attached to this Application;
☐ A certified true copy of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Applicant, duly certified by its corporate secretary;
☐ A certified true copy of the SEC Certificate of Registration of the Applicant, duly certified by its corporate secretary, and
☐ A duly notarized certificate of the Applicant's corporate secretary that sets out (a) the resolutions of the Applicant's Board of Directors or equivalent body authorizing the purchase of the Offer Shares and/or PDRs subject of the Application and designating signatories for the purpose, (b) the specimen signature of such designated signatories, and (c) percentage holdings by Philippine nationals in the Applicant and (c) (in the case of applications for Offer Shares) that the Applicant or the beneficial owner of the Offer Shares is a company, association or other entity wholly-owned and managed by Philippine Citizens.
☐ For foreign corporate and institutional Applicants of PDRs, in addition to the foregoing documents, a certification, representing and warranting that their investing in the PDRs will not violate the laws of their jurisdiction and that they are allowed to acquire, purchase and hold the PDRs.

Stock prices drop on profit-taking

SHARE PRICES closed 0.86-percent lower yesterday as investors locked in profits ahead of further share offerings later this month, dealers said.

The composite index fell 32.76 points to 3,753.26, just off the day's low of 3,750.22, after rising 2.4 percent over the last two sessions.

The broader all-share index lost 17.11 points to 2,420.28.

Decliners outnumbered advancers 88 to 42, while 39 stocks ended flat.

STOCK/ B4

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3 months	3.63%	3.75%	3.75%	3.88%
6 months	3.75%	3.88%	3.88%	4.00%
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- HP Embedded 4 Port SATA Controller with embedded RAID
- Two (2) 160GB SATA Hard Disk Drives
- Operating System is not included

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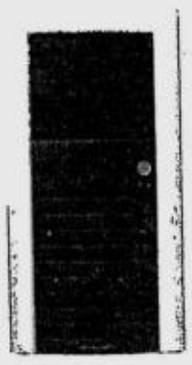
- Dual-Core Intel® Xeon® Processor 3040* (1.86 GHz, 1033 FSB)
- 1024 MB PC2-5300 ECC (DDR2-667Mhz) (2 x 512 MB)
- Broadcom 5721 Gigabit NIC (embedded) 10/100/1000
- HP B Internal Port SAS HBA with RAID (0,1)
- Two (2) 72GB Hard Disk Drives
- Operating System is not included

P85,000



P105,000 HP PROLIANT ML150 G3
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- One (1) HP 72GB 15K SAS 3.5 Hot Plug Hard Drive
- HP B Internal Port SAS Host Bus Adapter with RAID
- Operating System is not included

P99,999 HP PROLIANT DL140 G3
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- 1 GB PC2-5300 Fully Buffered DIMMs (DDR2-667)
- (1) 80-GB SATA Hard Disk Drive
- HP Embedded SATA RAID Controller
- Operating System is not included

ProLiant DL140 G3
- (1) Dual-Core Intel® Xeon® Processor 5110* (1.60GHz, 1066MHz FSB)
- 1 GB PC2-5300 Fully Buffered DIMMs (DDR2-667)
- (1) HP 72GB 15K SAS 3.5 Hot Plug Hard Drive
- HP B Internal Port SAS Host Bus Adapter with RAID
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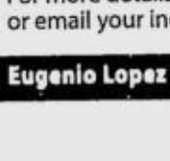
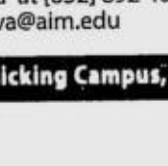


Professor Danilo A. Antonio, is a member of the Asian Center for Entrepreneurship [ACE] core faculty as a Guru in the Master in Entrepreneurship [ME] Program. Prof. Antonio also teaches the Development of Enterprise (DE) and Real Estate/Property Management and Finance electives in the Master in Business Administration Program. Prof. Antonio remains active in the Philippine Real Estate industry, where he has accumulated over 27 years of experience in various aspects of the property business. He holds a Master in Business Management degree (With Distinction) from the Asian Institute of Management and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics Degree (Summa Cum Laude) from De La Salle University.



Professor Alejandrino J. Ferreria Ed.D, is the Bank of America Foundation Professor of Business Management at AIM. From 2002 to 2004, he was the Dean of the AIM Asian Center for Entrepreneurship. Prior to his career in AIM, he also held senior executive positions at Guevarra Enterprises (Guevent), and helped form Unifoods International Corporation (post-mix distributor of Pepsi-Cola). Prof. Ferreria, who holds a Bachelor of Science in Management from Ateneo de Manila and an MBA from the University of the Philippines, currently sits on the boards of Goodyear Philippines, Pascual Laboratories, Construction Mgmt. & Dev't. Foundation, Filipino Car Foundation, and Channel Technologies.

Professor Tomas B. Lopez is the Don Demetrio Tuason Professor of Agribusiness at AIM, and AIM's Guru of services marketing and the emerging field of one-to-one marketing. A graduate of AIM's Master in Management program (with Distinction), his areas of specialization include Social Marketing, Development Communication, Corporate Social Responsibility, Entrepreneurship, Strategic Management, and Information Technology. He is President and CEO of the Club Noah Group of Companies operating the world-famous Club Noah-Isabelle in Northern Palawan. He is co-founder of Seair, an airline serving tourist destinations in Palawan, Surigao and Boracay, currently serves as President of the University of Makati.

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GMA 7 raises P5.4B from foreign investors

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

Local offering starts today

TELEVISION GIANT GMA Network Inc. has generated strong demand from foreign investors, raising at least P5.4 billion from the sale of Philippine Deposit Receipts (PDRs) after a recent international roadshow that ended last week.

PDRs are shares that enjoy economic benefits such as cash, stock or property dividends, but no voting powers.

GMA Network held an international roadshow that took it to Hong Kong, Singapore, London, Boston and New York from July 3 to July 13.

ATR Kim Eng Capital managing director Roberto Benares said big investor demand made the company and its new subsidiary GMA Holdings Inc. to price the initial public offer at P8.50, the top end of its price range that started at P7. ATR King Eng is the company's domestic lead underwriter.

"It's unprecedented. The entire 70 percent of the offer has been raised (from the international market)," Benares said.

GMA Network is raising P7.76 billion by offering 91.35 million common shares and 822.12 million PDRs.

A total of 70 percent of the total offer was sold to foreign investors while the balance of 30 percent will be for local investors.

Of the total proceeds from the offering, GMA Network is seen to raise P1.55 billion while the rest will go to the selling shareholders.

GMA Network's domestic offering starts today and will end on July 24. The shares will be listed on July 30.

The company's price-to-earnings ratio, a key measure of the stock's value, is at 20 times 2006 earnings, ATR Kim Eng said.

GMA Network's IPO trails that of Aboitiz Power Corp. whose maiden offer yesterday failed to spark a rally as it closed at its offer price of P5.80.

"I guess the market is saying you have to price the IPO right for the stock to perform. The market is now more aware of valuations so they are more cautious if it is expensive," said Conrado Bate, president of CitisecOnline.com.

PSE president Francis Lim said that aside from GMA Network, other companies expected to conduct or were studying possible listings on the stock market this year included call center firm eTelecare, beauty products firm Hortaleza Group and Cebu Pacific.

Net foreign buying jumps 155%

NET FOREIGN BUYING IN THE STOCK market in the first six months soared 155 percent to P64.4 billion from P25.3 billion a year ago, spurred by June's record-breaking performance, the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) said.

Net foreign buying is the difference between total foreign buying against total foreign selling.

The PSE said that net foreign buying hit P17.83 billion last June alone to erase the previous all-time monthly record of P15.96 billion posted in September 2006.

The level for June 2007 was also 6,795.3-percent higher than the P258.67 million net foreign buying on the same month last year. The PSE started to record foreign buying and selling in 1998.

Based on PSE records, total foreign buying from January to June this year increased by 124.7 percent to P358.43 billion from P159.48 billion for the same six-month period last year. Total foreign selling, on the other hand, went up by 120 percent to P294.03 billion from the year-ago level of P134.22 billion.

"Foreign investors have once again cast their vote of confidence on us by keeping more and more of their money in our market," said PSE president Francis Lim.

"But I am also happy to disclose that Filipino investors have pulled a surprise during the same period: They bought and sold more stocks and in the process posted a higher growth than their foreign counterparts in terms of total buying and selling activities," Lim said.

PSE documents showed that the value of total domestic trades reached P658.47 billion or almost triple its P220.7-billion level for the same period last year.

The value of total foreign trades for the first half hit P652.4 billion or more than double the P293.7-billion mark for the same period last year.

"That means domestic trades are getting bigger and they are growing at a rate faster than those of their foreign counterpart," Lim said.

Last June 20, the PSEi, the main barometer of local stock price movements, closed at 3,718.88 points, an all-time as of that time. At the end of the first semester, the PSEi closed at 3,660.86 points or 22.7 percent higher than the PSEi's level at the end of 2006.

The record high for June 20, however, did not last as the main index continued to scale new highs at the start of the second semester. On July 5, it reached an all-time high of 3,791.42 points or 27.1-percent higher than its level in end-2006. Last Friday, the PSEi closed at 3,786.02 points or 26.9-percent higher than the end-2006 figure.

"The jump in both foreign and domestic trading activity has bolstered my optimism about the market's ability to maintain its record-breaking pace of growth," Lim said. "I maintain that optimistic outlook; but—as I said—it will happen only as long as the country's economic foundations remain solid, and our political leaders maintain their sense of maturity and sobriety." *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

Brokers' divestment of PSE shares delayed

THE CLOCK IS TICKING FOR BROKERS to divest their more than 20-percent ownership in the Philippine Stock Exchange by the end of this month.

PSE president Francis Lim said the PSE would likely ask for an extension from the SEC of another six to 12 months to comply with provisions of the law.

"There are a lot of buyers now but no sellers," Lim said.

The Securities and Exchange Commission required brokers to sell their excess holdings to comply with a 20-percent industry limit.

INQUIRER sources estimated that brokers owned 47 percent of the local bourse.

Recently, The San Miguel Corp. Retirement Plan, the employee pension fund of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., sold its entire 9-percent stake in the PSE to a London-based investment fund, raising roughly P902 million, documents from the PSE showed.

Based on a disclosure to the PSE, London investment fund GLG Emerging Markets Special Situation Fund bought a total of 1.395 million PSE shares priced at between P605.41 and P651.81 each. The deals were brokered by JP Morgan.

Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

Gov't sees strong growth in second quarter

From page B1

quarter at 6.9 percent, thanks to healthy consumption fueled by record remittances from millions of overseas workers and candidate spending before the polls on May 14.

But Arroyo said growth in the April-June period was unlikely to match the first quarter. "We were overjoyed with the 6.9 percent," he said. "I would rather be conservative."

The Philippines is targeting full-year growth of 6.1-6.7 percent this year, up from 5.5 percent in 2006.

Arroyo said the third quarter was traditionally weak, as the rainy season dents consumption, but he expected fourth-quarter annual growth to be strong after devastating typhoons last year knocked the final three months' performance.

"So, hopefully with no typhoons this year we will see additional strong growth for Q4."

At the same time, President Macapagal Arroyo also told Reuters that the government would continue to pour money into infrastructure projects despite below-target tax revenues in the first half of the year.

"At the end of the day we will be able to meet our targets in revenue and meet our targets in infrastructure spending, not only on physical infrastructure but human capital spending," Ms Arroyo said in an interview.

Ms Arroyo, a former economics professor, is determined to raise spending on the country's transport network, power facilities and schools after years of belt-tightening put its infrastructure years behind neighbors such as Malaysia and Thailand.

The country has earmarked P142 billion for capital expenditure this year, an 83-percent increase from 2006.

With tax revenues likely to be P53 billion below target in the first half due to endemic evasion and corruption, the government has insisted proceeds from asset sales will plug the gap, allowing it to meet its budget deficit goal of P63 billion and its higher spending plans.

The President said a railway connecting Manila to Clark, the country's second-busiest international airport, 80 kilometers north of the capital, was being built with Chinese financing and was likely to be finished by the end of her term in 2010.

She also said an ill-fated passenger terminal, originally set to open in late 2002, at the crowded Ninoy Aquino International Airport would hopefully be ready for business by the end of the year.

The government seized the terminal in December 2004 in a bitter dispute with German airport operator Fraport AG over the contract for the facility. A long-delayed opening in early 2006 was suspended after a section of ceiling collapsed.

"Legally we are in possession. It is now making it physically safe and acceptable to FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) and all the other standards that we are working on," Arroyo said.

The terminal, designed to handle 13 million passengers a year, has become a symbol of the graft and legal uncertainties that can beset foreign investors in the Philippines.

But Ms Arroyo said the Philippines' low-cost, English-speaking population and its strategic location in Asia were attracting foreign investors such as Texas Instruments, the world's biggest maker of mobile phone chips, and South Korean ship builder Hanjin.

"I believe we are becoming one of the best values for investment in the region and the world is beginning to take notice," she said. *Reuters*

CURRENCIES

July 16, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.725374	1.000000	45.7920
Japan	Yen	0.005949	0.008201	0.3755
United Kingdom	Pound	1.475627	2.034300	93.1547
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.092771	0.127894	5.8565
Switzerland	Franc	0.603171	0.831532	38.0775
Canada	Dollar	0.692283	0.954381	43.7030
Singapore	Dollar	0.478763	0.660022	30.2237
Australia	Dollar	0.630047	0.868583	39.7742
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.924272	2.652801	121.4771
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.193422	0.266652	12.2105
Brunei	Dollar	0.477188	0.657851	30.1243
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000081	0.000111	0.0051
Thailand	Baht	0.023940	0.033003	1.5113
UAE	Dirham	0.197504	0.272279	12.4682
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.378600	63.1289
Korea	Won	0.000791	0.001091	0.0500
China	Yuan**	0.095828	0.132109	6.0495
Argentina	Peso	0.234067	0.322685	14.7764
Brazil	Real	0.387548	0.534274	24.4655
Denmark	Kroner	0.134423	0.185316	8.4860
India	Rupee	0.018018	0.024839	1.1374
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.210680	0.290444	13.3000
Mexico	New Peso	0.067442	0.092976	4.2576
New Zealand	Dollar	0.569859	0.785608	35.9746
South Africa	Rand	0.104051	0.143445	6.5686
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022122	0.030497	1.3965

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—July 13, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of July 13, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 16, 2007)

52-WKS HIGH	52-WKS LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.2	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.5	75,400
73	30.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	71	71.5	70	70.5	1,222,100
73.5	47.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	72	72.5	71.5	71.5	798,800
935	630	China Banking Corp.	900	900	895	895	1,640
40	19	Chinatrust Comm'l Banking Corp.	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	1,400
0.63	0.37	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	650,000
75.5	34	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company	72.5	73	71.5	72	1,517,300
68	38.5	Philippine Savings Bank	64.5	64.5	64.5	64.5	2,000
39.57	14.13	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	35	36	35	36	1,131,900
90	45	Security Bank Corp.	86.5	86.5	86.5	86.5	23,800
66	41.54	Union Bank of the Philippines	62.5	62.5	62.5	62.5	502,700
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.72	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	5	5	5	5	5,000
1.5	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.18	1.28	1.16	1.28	817,000
16.25	1.64	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	16	16	15	15.5	642,300
8.8	3.5	Filipino Fund Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	8,000
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	504,000
42	28	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	10,000
1,710.00	1,500.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,705.00	1,705.00	1,705.00	1,705.00	500
5	4.05	Nat'l Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	4.35	4.45	4.35	4.35	10,715,000
3.1	0.99	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	131,000
1,005.00	211	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	840	840	815	815	3,050
2,250.00	1,895.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,160.00	2,160.00	2,160.00	2,160.00	280
1.94	1.22	Wantage Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.82	1.84	269,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	5.7	Aboitiz Power Corp.	6.2	6.2	5.7	5.8	139,564,000
0.57	0.22	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.47	0.5	6,810,000
69.5	41.5	First Gen Corp.	68.5	69.5	68	69.5	1,531,500
92	41	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	91	91	89	89	374,500
14.25	7.5	Manila Water Company Inc.	14.25	14.25	14	14.25	1,600,600
116	14.5	Manila Electric Company A	108	109	107	107	108,000
118	23.25	Manila Electric Company B	111	111	107	107	438,670
6.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.5	23,433,000
6.5	3.7	Petron Corp.	6.3	6.4	6.2	6.2	7,827,000
14.75	12.25	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	13.75	13.75	13	13	2,729,700
1.9	0.91	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.46	1.5	4,178,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
2.95	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.28	2.28	2.2	2.2	845,000
2.75	1.24	CADP Group Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.06	2.08	63,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	5,900
61	30.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	54.5	54.5	53.5	53.5	462,400
1.9	0.77	RFM Corp.	1.74	1.78	1.74	1.74	936,000
4.05	2.2	Roxas Holdings	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	22,000
80	61	San Miguel Corp. A	76.5	76.5	76.5	76.5	103,000
88	69.5	San Miguel Corp. B	82.5	83	81.5	83	233,900
0.61	0.2	Swift Foods Inc.	0.52	0.53	0.5	0.5	1,200,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	18	18	18	18	274,600
0.55	0.19	Vitarich Corp.	0.43	0.44	0.39	0.39	4,960,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.43	EEI Corp.	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.7	1,255,000
10	6	Federal Chemicals Inc.	9	10	9	10	5,000
9.2	4.3	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8	8	7.8	8	223,000
7	1.2	Republic Cement Corp.	4.95	4.95	4.9	4.95	93,000
2	0.25	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.66	1.7	1.66	1.7	434,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	1.42	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.5	1,102,000
1.34	0.8	Interphil Laboratories Inc. A	1	1	1	1	253,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.61	0.065	Philcomp Resources Inc.	0.54	0.56	0.49	0.51	195,950,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
0.17	0.023	AJO net Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	51,660,000
1.28	0.195	APC Group Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.08	1.08	5,634,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. A	2.8	2.8	2.65	2.65	724,000
3.3	1.48	ATN Holdings Inc. B	2.75	2.85	2.75	2.85	9,171,000
0.018	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. A	0.014	0.015	0.013	0.013	719,100,000
0.019	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. B	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	101,900,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	8.9	8.9	8.2	8.3	4,895,000
0.021	0.007	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.018	380,900,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.2	5,246,000
1.38	0.48	Alsons Cons. Resources Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1	330,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.55	2.55	2.46	2.46	1,613,000
590	308.33	Ayala Corp.	580	580	570	575	100,580
6.9	0.7	Balabac Res and Holdings Co. Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.75	4.75	435,000
5.8	1.04	Benpres Holdings Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.6	9,404,000
10.25	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.7	9.8	9.7	9.8	415,000
2.02	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. A	1.9	1.92	1.9	1.9	140,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	1,203,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.8	238,000
14.5	5.6	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	8,700
0.8	0.185	MEDCO Holdings Inc.	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.6	1,010,000
0.95	0.13	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
11.5	0.26	Multitech Investments Corp.	9	9	8.6	8.6	1,555,000
30	0.88	NiHAO Minerals Res Int'l Inc.	27	27	25	25.5	810,700
5.4	1.3	PAL Holdings Inc.	4.6	4.65	4.6	4.65	5,000
0.17	0.009	Pacifica Inc. A	0.115	0.17	0.115	0.17	1,640,130,000
0.75	0.16	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.56	0.57	0.56	0.56	1,570,000
452.5	200.44	SM Investments Corp.	430	435	430	430	210,990
2.2	0.71	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	27,000
0.73	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.54	0.55	0.53	0.53	6,400,000
1.06	0.51	Solid Group Inc.	0.88	0.89	0.88	0.88	660,000
1.6	0.78	South China Resources Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	30,000
2	0.8	Vivant Corp.	2	2	2	2	3,000
0.75	0.085	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.54	0.55	0.5	0.5	10,460,000
		PROPERTY					
2.16	0.78	A Brown Company Inc.	1.78	1.88	1.78	1.8	4,258,000
1.06	0.3	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.82	0.88	0.82	0.85	1,690,000
19.25	10	Ayala Land Inc.	18.25	18.25	17.75	17.75	2,525,000
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.64	1.66	1.62	1.62	6,463,000
4.7	2.1	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.4	4.4	4.35	4.35	729,000
2	1.2	Cebu Property Venture & Dev't Corp.A	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	90,000
0.86	0.26	Crown Equities Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.81	0.81	4,780,000
0.83	0.18	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.55	520,000
3.25	0.75	Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.	3	3.05	3	3.05	546,000
0.99	0.44	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	8,650,000
0.32	0.038	Ever Gotesco Res and Hold'gs Inc.	0.26	0.3	0.26	0.28	58,350,000
1.38	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.08	1.1	7,165,000
2.44	0.99	Filinvest Land Inc.	2.22	2.22	2.16	2.2	19,115,000
0.41	0.07	Gotesco Land Inc. A	0.31	0.33	0.3	0.31	2,540,000
0.42	0.07	Gotesco Land Inc. B	0.31	0.34	0.31	0.34	1,080,000
0.69	0.2	Kuok Phil. Properties Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	1,890,000
1.12	0.18	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.9	0.9	1,530,000
4.4	1.28	Megaworld Corp.	4.05	4.05	3.9	3.95	39,238,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	3,000
0.7	0.11	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.47	0.47	1,110,000
0.87	0.25	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.68	0.69	0.67	0.67	14,850,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	30,000
23	10.5	Robinson Land Corp.	20.5	20.5	19.75	19.75	3,284,200
5.8	1.25	SM Development Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.5	5.8	1,165,000
13.5	5.92	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12.75	13.5	12.75	13	12,470,400
1.34	0.51	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	1	1.04	0.99	0.99	980,000
0.36	0.06	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.32	0.27	0.28	14,660,000
		MEDIA					
36.5	15.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	36.5	36.5	35	35.5	108,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.16	Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.54	1.56	8,089,000
1,445.00	900	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,375.00	1,375.00	1,375.00	1,375.00	85,420
2,820.00	1,790.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,735.00	2,735.00	2,695.00	2,705.00	158,640
7.9	3.2	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7.2	7.3	7	7.2	6,542,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	1,640,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	10	10	10	10	5,000
10.5	2	IPVG Corp.	9.7	9.7	9.1	9.3	2,205,000
0.065	0.0274	ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.049	0.05	110,600,000
29.5	5.5	Imperial Resources Inc. A	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	2,800
0.32	0.04	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.22	0.28	0.215	0.26	288,070,000
2.08	1.12	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.66	1.66	109,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.06	0.0625	0.0575	0.06	221,400,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Grp Int'l Inc.	2.85	2.95	2.8	2.95	796,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.92	1.14	Abouiz Transport System Corp.	1.66	1.68	1.66	1.68	226,000
6.8	2.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	35,000
33.5	14	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	31	33.5	31	33	10,682,100
2.14	0.86	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2.08	2.08	2.06	2.06	216,000
2.04	0.8	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.6	1.6	32,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.26	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.55	3.75	3.55	3.75	697,000
0.98	0.18	Premiere Entertainment Prod'n Inc.	0.75	0.76	0.74	0.76	440,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.93	0.93	50,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.65	iPeople Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	2,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
7.5	3	Easycall Comm. Phils. Inc.	6	6.2	6	6.2	7,000
6	1.9	Macroasia Corp.	5.3	5.5	5.3	5.4	502,000
17.25	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	15.25	15.5	14.25	15	330,300
30	9.9	Paxys Inc.	23.75	23.75	23.25	23.5	841,000
		MINING					
0.018	0.0075	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	146,000,000
7.6	3.3	Apex Mining Company Inc. A	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	460,000
7.7	3.35	Apex Mining Company Inc. B	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	181,000
21.25	7.4	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.25	15.25	15	15.25	2,322,600
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. A	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	28,700
35	20	Benguet Corp. B	28	28	28	28	600
5	1.76	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	4.1	4.15	4.1	4.1	98,000
3.1	0.0713	GEOGRACE Res Phil. Inc.	3.05	3.1	2.9	2.95	42,729,000
0.35	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	4,410,000
0.42	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.32	1,910,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. A	0.032	0.033	0.032	0.032	74,600,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. B	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	49,300,000
0.024	0.008	Omico Corp.	0.02	0.021	0.019	0.021	2,405,500,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	5.9	6	5.8	5.9	10,857,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	2,000
1.36	0.35	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.02	1.02	1,252,000
1.8	0.52	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.36	1.38	576,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.51	0.52	0.48	0.5	13,320,000
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	5,100,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	12,200,000
14.25	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.75	141,300
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	107,000,000

Stock prices drop

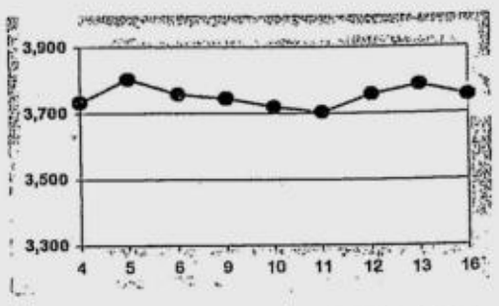
From page B3

A total of 7.5 billion shares worth P6.8 billion changed hands.

Aboitiz Power Corp., which made its debut yesterday with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo sounding the opening bell, ended steady at its IPO price of P5.80 after trading in a range between P5.70 and P6.20.

"There was profit-taking as investors prepare to participate in upcoming IPOs (initial public offerings). They need to maintain a certain level of liquidity," said Gomer Tan of Regina Capital Development Corp.

"It seems like investors are taking a pause. With the recent run-up, most blue chips are already overbought," said First Grade Holdings managing director Astro del Castillo.



GMA Network, the main rival of listed ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., has priced its IPO at P8.50 a share to raise at least P7.76 billion to fund expansion plans. *(See story on page B4.)*

Elsewhere in the market, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. shed P30 to P2,705. San Miguel-A was unchanged at P76.50 while San Miguel-B added 50 centavos to P83. Ayala Land Inc. slipped 2.7 percent at P17.75. *AFP, AP*

Treasury rejects bids for 6-mo, 1-yr T-bills

Banks' bids 'absurdly high,' BTr says

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT REJECTED ALL BIDS for the 182- and 364-day treasury bills in yesterday's auction, as the Bureau of Treasury found the rates sought by banks for the securities "absurdly high."

Had the Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee accepted the bids for the 182-day bills, the interest rate on this debt paper could have reached 5.016 percent, or 37.7 basis points higher than the 4.639 percent in the auction held two weeks ago.

For the 364-day bills, the yield could have reached as high as 5.959 percent, or 52.1 basis points higher than the previous rate of 5.438 percent.

The BTr had accepted only the offers for the 91-day bills, whose rate reached 3.626 percent, up by 14.8 basis points from the previous rate of 3.478 percent.

Tenders for the 91-day bills reached P4.27 billion, higher than the debt offering of only P1 billion.

There were P5.84 billion worth of tenders for the six-month government securities and P3.135 billion for the one-year bills, higher than the debt offering of P1.5 billion and P2.5 billion, respectively.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan, who is also the officer in charge of the Treasury, said the government could accept an increase in the interest rate on government securities, but not as high as what the banks had sought in the auction.

"The market was asking for a very unreasonable increase in the rate in the light of what happened last Friday so we had to reject," Tan told reporters in a briefing after the auction.

Tan was referring to the move of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas last Friday to remove the tiering scheme applied on bank deposits in the central bank. The lifting of the tiering scheme was said to have encouraged banks to deposit more of their investable funds in the BSP rather than invest them in government securities.

Under the tiering scheme, which was aimed at encouraging banks to lend more to the public, only the first P5 billion worth of deposits in the BSP would enjoy the maximum interest rate of 7.5 percent.

Deposits in excess of P5 billion up to P10 billion earned an interest of 5.5 percent, while deposits in excess of P10 billion earned only 3.5 percent.

The lifting of the tiering scheme followed the move of the BSP last May to open a facility that allowed state-owned firms and trust departments of banks to directly deposit in the BSP.

Tan said allowing trust departments of banks and government-owned and -controlled corporations to directly place deposits in the BSP posed a competition against government securities.

The interest rates offered by the BSP are higher than what investors may gain from government securities of comparable tenors.

Because having a special depository account (SDA) with the BSP is already more attractive, in terms of earning interest, than investing in government securities, some market players said yields from SDAs should already be the benchmark in determining interest rates charged by banks to clients.

But Tan said there could not be any other benchmarks aside from rates on government securities.

"The SDAs should not be considered as the market's benchmark because the BSP is offering it only for a temporary basis. It is a temporary measure to mop up excess liquidity," Tan said.

Asked how the government could compensate the lost potential borrowings after it rejected bids for the six-month and one-year T-bills, Tan said additional revenue would come from the privatization of big-ticket assets.

The government is selling its shares in Meralco, San Miguel and Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC).

The government expects to generate P50 billion from the sale of SMC shares, another P50 billion from the sale of its stake in PNOC-EDC, and some P11 billion from the sale of its Meralco shares.

CONVICTION OF EVADERS

Palace vows to go after tax evaders

THE GOVERNMENT IS STEPPING UP efforts to crack down on tax evasion to bring the country's budget revenues back on track and will jail those convicted, President Macapagal-Arroyo said on Saturday.

The nation's main revenue collection agencies—the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs—are estimated to have collected P53 billion less than the projected collections in the first half of the year and the government's goal of keeping the full-year fiscal deficit within P63 billion is seriously in doubt.

"We have to recognize the fact that there are taxes out there that haven't been collected," the President said.

"And that is where we are putting our renewed effort, on using modernization and technology to expand our reach, also cracking down on corruption, and enforcing compliance by tax cheats."

She said technology, for instance, would help the government develop software that would compare a database on car owners with the taxes they had paid.

The authorities will also intensify the audits of companies to ensure that they are not evading customs duties on their imports.

Most importantly, Ms Arroyo said she had asked the BIR and the Customs to secure the conviction of evaders and make sure that they end up serving jail terms.

"We cannot just keep filing cases every week," she said.

"I have said why not look at the cases that you have already filed and make them strong and make them stick and get convictions. And that is now the direction."

The Bureau of Internal Revenue, which accounts for about two-thirds of state revenues, has yet to bring about a single conviction of a tax dodger since it launched a campaign against tax evasion in 2004.

It lost high-profile tax cases this year after local courts dismissed tax evasion charges against former first lady Imelda Marcos and one of the country's richest men, Lucio Tan, for lack of evidence.

Ms Arroyo sacked the head of the BIR last month for missing revenue targets. *Reuters*

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(Each topic may be attended separately)
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Aug 13 MANAGEMENT OF RENTAL PROPERTIES
Aug 15 JOINT VENTURES FOR REAL ESTATE PROJECTS
Aug 20 PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT W/ HLURB RULES & UPDATES
Aug 22 TAXATION of REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS
Aug 27 HOW TO START & MANAGE A SUCCESSFUL REALTY OFFICE
Aug 29 HOW TO'S OF REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL
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PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer president Sandy Romualdez chats with PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan during yesterday's opening of the three-day League of Corporate Foundation CSR Expo at the Philippine Plaza Hotel in Pasay. RUDY ESPERAS

Private firms' social investments get bigger

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PRIVATE SECTOR SPENT AN AVERAGE of P2.4 billion a year in the past five years or a total of P12 billion for "social investments," as corporate foundations focused substantial portions of their resources on improving the people's access to education and skills.

"The bulk of this spending was allocated for education, indicating that most of our executives have embraced CSR as a vital part of their company's operations," Marilou G. Erni, president of the League of Corporate Foundations, said during a speech at the opening of the three-day CSR Expo 2007 held at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza.

Citing data from LCF, Philippine Business for Social Progress, Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the People Management Association of the Philippines, Erni said 46 percent of social investments went to human services development—including education; 27 percent for livelihood and employment; and 25 percent for environmental concerns.

"A major inclusion in this year's expo is environment projects," she said. "With the growing concern for global warming and sustainable development issues, we are seeing billions of pesos being spent on environmental projects."

"As we were tracking down our progress, we have recognized that while we have islands of good practices, system-wide improvements continue to elude us," Erni added.

LCF, along with its partner organizations, have launched efforts aimed at adding thrust to bring forward their "CSR Roadmap" and rally their resources to support education.

The roadmap is described as a template that is anchored on the government's basic education sector reform agenda and allows companies to take part in different levels of CSR advocacy, as well as improve on current CSR practices.

In yesterday's opening rites, LCF and its partners presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo a memorandum of understanding among companies on the so named "57-75 campaign."

Taking its cue from the CSR Roadmap, the campaign is aimed at helping improve the national average score of public elementary school students in the national achievement test—currently at 57 out of 100—as well as students capacity to earn grades above the passing mark of 75.

Erni said the private sector's intervention would be focused on improving students' retention of knowledge, comprehension of lessons and of overall achievement.

"This year, the campaign would be started in 729 public elementary schools in six provinces and cities (across the nation)," she said.

Also yesterday, PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan—who was the main speaker at the joint general membership meeting of LCF, Management Association of the Philippines and the Makati Business Club—urged companies to ensure that their CSR efforts were actually useful and sustainable.

"Doing this needs more discipline and training as well as adjustment in corporate mindset, processes and reporting within firms," Pangilinan said.

"Making CSR a strategic (activity) means it is symbiotic with our (core business) and result in stimulating vast resources and yet untapped markets, which in turn bring us competitive advantage and socio-economic development," he said.

Pangilinan added that by making CSR strategic, the private sector can have a more profound and longer-lasting impact in society than any government and other institutions.

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Asia shares ease; oil prices seen to hit record high

SINGAPORE—ASIAN SHARES MOSTLY eased on Monday with South Korea retreating from record highs on fears the government may move to cool the market.

Also, Brent crude was about a dollar away from its highest level due to supply worries.

Data on Friday showing improved US consumer sentiment sparked optimism that shipments to Asia's top export market would stay strong, helping to limit regional stock losses and lending support to the dollar.

US stock markets rallied to record highs on Friday on optimism about consumer sentiment. But many investors remain cautious ahead of the busy earnings season.

By 0630 GMT, MSCI's measure of Asia Pacific stocks, excluding Japan, was off 0.6 percent. Japanese financial markets were closed on Monday for a public holiday.

China's main stock index dropped 1.9 percent as concerns about imminent initial public offerings as well as June inflation data due later this week discouraged investors.

Seoul shares rose to a fresh record but surrendered gains as Kookmin Bank fell nearly 4 percent after saying it was ordered to pay back taxes, and due to speculation that a scorching stock rally could prompt government measures.

Shares in Posco, the world's No. 4 steel maker, hit an all-time high but ended down 0.89 percent at 555,000 won ahead of its quarterly earnings due out after the market's close.

The Korea Composite Stock Price Index closed 0.7 percent lower, Taiwan's TAIEX ended 0.6 percent down, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng dropped 0.3 percent.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 erased early gains to edge down 0.1 percent, weighed down by further losses in Rio Tinto Ltd., which fell on concerns that it was paying a full price for its US$38 billion bid for Canadian aluminum firm Alcan Inc.

Rio Tinto fell 4.2 percent.

Markets in India and Singapore were higher.

The dollar recovered marginally from a record low versus the euro, underpinned by a six-month high in US consumer sentiment and hawkish expectations from Federal Reserve chair Ben Bernanke's testimony this week.

Bernanke is expected to suggest the Fed is more concerned about rising inflation than about housing market turbulence seriously damaging the world's largest economy.

That supported the dollar, helping it recover from the record low of $1.3815 struck against the euro on Friday during a month-long downtrend driven by the unexpected fall in retail sales last month and fears the US sub-prime mortgage crisis could frighten foreign investors away from US credit markets.

The euro stood at $1.3790 by 0600 GMT. Against the yen, the dollar was at 121.96 yen around late New York levels.

London Brent crude seen as a better indicator of the global market, held near 11-month highs after rising more than 1.5 percent in the previous session on nagging supply worries due to North Sea production problems and US refinery outages.

It was up 20 cents at $77.77 a barrel, about a dollar away from last August's $78.65 all-time high.

Gold held steady and was within sight of a five-week high hit last week. Spot gold was at $667.40/668.20 an ounce, up from $666.60/667.40 late in New York on Friday. *Reuters*

SALES staff of Japanese car-maker Honda go over a vehicle at a showroom in Seoul. More and more European, US and Japanese cars have been making inroads in South Korea's capital. REUTERS

Car imports test South Koreans' patriotism

SEOUL—NOT SO LONG AGO, IT WAS rare to see a foreign-made car on the streets of Seoul, as South Korea built up an auto industry to challenge neighboring Japan, and protected it with high tariffs on imported cars.

Now, increasing numbers of sleek, stylish European, US and Japanese brands ply the capital of Asia's fourth biggest economy and more Koreans are putting aside patriotism to buy them.

Foreign car sales are still modest—about 5 percent of the total market—compared to those by local heavyweights Hyundai Motor Co. Ltd. and its affiliate Kia Motors Corp., but they are eating into domestic firms' profits as they usually compete with the higher-margin, higher-end models.

Sales of imported passenger cars grew 26.3 percent in January-June, at more than double the rate of domestic manufacturers' sales, boosted by aggressive promotions, lower prices, a stronger won and a free trade deal with the United States that will cut car taxes.

Despite smoldering hostility toward Japan, which occupied Korea for much of the first half of the last century, local perceptions are changing and Koreans are warming to the wider range of models on offer as prices fall.

Foreign brands offer a certain cachet.

"It's much easier to attract the attention of girls if you drive a foreign car," said 32-year-old businessman Lee Byoung-hee, who is considering changing his Kia Xtrek minivan to Honda Motor Co.'s popular CR-V sport utility vehicle.

"I'm a bit reluctant to buy the SUV because it's Japanese, but people don't really care where cars are from these days."

Memories are fading since South Korea was colonized by Japan between 1910 and 1945, although many remain sensitive about that occupation and Japan's past military actions in the region.

Until recently, Japanese car dealers had to close their showrooms on holidays, such as Independence Day, as angry South Koreans demonstrated against Japan, said Park Hun-woo, marketing manager at Honda Cars Huzen, a local dealer for Japan's No. 2 automaker.

But Honda's CR-V is now South Korea's top-selling foreign car, ahead of Toyota Motor Corp.'s Lexus ES350 sedan.

Prices are under attack as SK Networks Co., which already has a dealership for several foreign brands such as Nissan's Infiniti and Ford's Jaguar, plans to sell imported cars on a parallel grey market at below the official dealer price from as early as the third quarter, a company official said.

"South Korea customers think foreign cars are ridiculously expensive," said the official, who asked not to be named. "We will satisfy them with prices, removing unnecessary costs."

In the past, an imported car was flaunted as a symbol of wealth as it was expensive and difficult to find because foreign car dealers focused on luxury brands such as BMW AG.

But middle-class customers are the new target, and traditional price differentials have gone.

Imported car sales are seen growing by more than 12 percent this year to 45,500 units, slowing from last year's 31-percent growth, and the Korea Automobile Importers & Distributors Association sees the market expanding to 70,000 cars by 2011. *Reuters*

Ford denies reports it is in talks to sell Volvo unit

DETROIT—FORD MOTOR CO., RESPONDING to reports that it is putting its Volvo unit up for sale, said it is not negotiating with anyone to sell the Swedish automaker.

The Sunday Times, citing unnamed sources in London, said the decision to sell Volvo, which is part of Ford's Premier Automotive Group, was made in the past two weeks, but that the timing of the sale had yet to be decided.

The New York Times, in a story posted Sunday on its website, said Ford would entertain offers for Volvo following a board meeting last week. The newspaper cited people who it said had knowledge of the situation. The newspaper did not identify them.

Ford spokesperson Tom Hoyt said in an interview with The Associated Press on Sunday that the company was not commenting on speculation about Volvo's future. But later in the day, he issued a denial that the automaker was in talks to sell the unit.

"To my knowledge, we are not in negotiations with anyone about the future of Volvo," Hoyt said.

When Ford last August announced it was exploring the possible sale of its Aston Martin luxury sports car brand, the automaker left open the possibility that other Premier Automotive Group brands, including Volvo, could be sold.

Auto analyst David Cole said if Ford's cash flow problems were desperate enough, selling Volvo might make some sense.

"You could get cash out of it, which is very important right now," said Cole, chair of the Center for Automotive Research in Ann Arbor.

Ford in December finalized a $23.4-billion financing package to fuel its restructuring and cover expected losses in its automotive operations. It pledged domestic plants and other automotive assets as collateral.

No bank had been appointed to handle the Volvo transaction, both newspapers said. The Sunday Times said the deal could be worth $8 billion.

Ford acquired Volvo from Sweden's Volvo AB in 1999 for $6.45 billion.

Last month, Ford said it was reviewing its position on Premier Automotive Group brands Jaguar and Land Rover, fueling speculation the company was getting closer to selling the brands.

Ford sold Aston Martin for $848 million in March, with some analysts saying the brand did not fit into Ford's long-term survival plan. That plan includes cost savings by developing multiple models worldwide on the same underpinnings.

The possible sale of Volvo comes as the company is struggling to return to profitability in the face of fierce competition from Asian automakers and developing tastes for more fuel-efficient models in its key North American market. It is slashing thousands of jobs and plans to close plants to cut costs. *AP*

In the United States, angst grows over globalization 'menace'

WASHINGTON—THE US STOCK MARket is at an all-time high, unemployment is near record lows, yet poll after poll shows American workers uneasy over job security and worried that they are losing out in a global economy.

The disconnect between the seemingly rosy economic data and the dour mood has caught the attention of some influential politicians who are concerned the middle class has soured on globalization, tingeing the debate on hot-button issues ranging from immigration to trade.

On the same day in June that Republican senators scuttled a US immigration bill, many Democrats were applauding the demise of the fast-track trade authority that the Bush administration desperately wanted.

Rep. Barney Frank, who chairs the House of Representatives Financial Services Committee, sees a link.

"Both of those died because of problems that were extrinsic," the Massachusetts Democrat said, adding that many workers harbored "deep anger" over stagnant wages and widening income inequality, and were quick to pin the blame on illegal immigrants, China or regional trade deals like Nafta.

As long as that malaise exists, lawmakers will have trouble tackling thorny trade or immigration issues, Frank said.

And with an election year looming, he and his colleagues argue for policies that make globalization more palatable to the public.

"The globalization issue is one that is menacing to many," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said. "We want it to be promising to more."

Manufacturing job losses and recalls of potentially harmful Chinese-made goods have hardened negative attitudes. A recent survey from the Financial Services Forum found that 49 percent of Americans had a favorable view of globalization, down from 54 percent a year earlier.

When economics and politics meet, it is not always a perfect fit, so the flat wages that stoke worker anxiety actually come as a bit of relief to economists who fret over an overheating job market and inflation.

That makes policy decisions all the more tricky, and even many Democrats are shying away from hard antitrade stances like import tariffs for fear of shutting off profitable trade.

Emboldened by last November's congressional sweep and optimistic about their chances in the next election, Pelosi and other Democrats are pushing for a stronger safety net to support those hurt by competition from low-wage countries.

"There is a sense of insecurity that is palpable," said Rep. Rosa DeLauro, a Connecticut Democrat. "Enough of the debate. Let's get to the specifics." *Reuters*

RBS group offers more cash in $98-B ABN bid

LONDON/AMSTERDAM—THE TAKEOVER battle for ABN Amro heated up on Monday with the Royal Bank of Scotland consortium boosting the cash element of its $98-billion (71.1 billion euro) offer.

The offer is above a rival all-stock bid from Britain's Barclays that is worth about 64 billion euros, which has been recommended by ABN's board.

The revised bid pushed ABN shares higher, with the price up 3.5 percent at 37.12 euros by 0726 GMT.

The consortium, which also includes Spain's Santander and Belgian-Dutch group Fortis, kept its offer for ABN at 38.4 euros per share, but raised the cash component of the offer to 93 percent from 79 percent before.

It said the remaining 5 billion euros of the offer will comprise new RBS shares.

The increase in cash on offer follows a Dutch court ruling on Friday which allowed ABN to move ahead with the sale of its US bank LaSalle to Bank of America for $21 billion.

RBS had planned to buy LaSalle, but will now receive cash from the sale of the business.

RBS shares were up 0.7 percent at 644.50 pence, Fortis shares were down 1 percent at 30.95 euros and Santander was up 0.07 percent at 14.17 euros.

RBS chief executive Fred Goodwin told reporters on a conference call that RBS had never considered pulling out of the bidding for ABN, despite the exclusion of its main target asset at ABN, LaSalle.

RBS consortium members will pay the same amounts and receive the same ABN businesses as they had previously arranged, apart from LaSalle. *Reuters*

Bad press stokes China's fury

BEIJING—CHINESE OFFICIALS ARE blaming the international media, especially from the United States, for fueling fears about the safety of the country's food and drug exports, a newspaper reported Monday.

The accusations in the state-run China Daily come several days after China suspended meat imports from some US companies in an apparent attempt to turn the tables on American complaints about problematic Chinese exports.

"Some foreign media, especially those based in the US, have wantonly reported on so-called unsafe Chinese products," Li Changjiang, minister of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, was quoted as saying by the newspaper. "They are turning white to black."

The administration is China's quality control watchdog and has some responsibility in overseeing the safety of Chinese products.

The United States and other countries have been cracking down on Chinese products since the US Food and Drug Administration found in April that North American dogs and cats had been poisoned by tainted Chinese pet food ingredients. Since then, a growing number of Chinese products have been found to contain potentially toxic chemicals and other adulterants.

"One company's problem doesn't make it a country's problem," Lie was quoted as saying. "If some food products are below standard, you can't say all the country's food is unsafe."

He said more than 99 percent of Chinese food exports to the United States in the past three years had met quality standards, the same or better than the amount of US food exports to China.

The top Communist Party boss in the northeastern port city of Tianjin, Li Chuanqing, was also quoted as saying that international media were "arousing unnecessary fears."

Earlier this month, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Qin Gang warned the media against exaggerating China's food safety problems and stirring consumer panic.

China's dismal product safety record—both within and outside its borders—has increasingly come under the spotlight, with major buyers such as the United States, Japan and the European Union pushing Beijing to improve inspections.

But in recent weeks, Chinese authorities have prominently announced their own rejections of imports, including orange pulp, dried apricots, raisins and health supplements from the United States.

On Friday, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine posted a list on its website detailing imported American meat that it said had contaminants, including salmonella, feed additives and veterinary drugs.

The agency's list included frozen poultry from Springdale, Arkansas-based Tyson Foods Inc., the world's largest meat processor, which was said to be contaminated with salmonella. Tyson Foods has said it is unaware of any tainted product.

In the latest move against suspect US products, the quality watchdog said on its website Monday that protein powder imported from Los Angeles-based Jarrow Formulas Inc. contained too much selenium.

Selenium can be toxic in large doses.

The statement said all of the powder has been returned, but gave no other details.

There was no comment from Jarrow Formulas. *AP*

Bancroft family member bent on blocking sale of Dow Jones

NEW YORK—CHRISTOPHER BANcroft, part of the family that controls Dow Jones, is trying to block a takeover by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., a source familiar with the situation said on Monday, confirming a story reported in the Wall Street Journal.

Bancroft has recently approached hedge funds and private equity firms, hoping to buy enough voting shares of Dow Jones to give him the power to thwart a sale, the Wall Street Journal reported on its website, citing people familiar with the matter.

Bancroft is trying to buy more "super-voting" shares from other Bancroft heirs who may be ready to sell their stakes but share his distaste for handing the family legacy to Murdoch, the Journal said.

News Corp., owner of Fox News, the New York Post and a sprawling global media empire, has offered $5 billion, or $60 a share, for Dow Jones, the publisher of the Wall Street Journal.

Due diligence between News Corp. and Dow Jones is winding down, and people close to both sides say the process is "basically finished," the Wall Street Journal reported, although it said a substantive discussion of price hasn't happened yet.

That could change on Monday when Murdoch and Dow Jones Chief Executive Richard Zannino sit down for lunch to discuss price and other terms, the Wall Street Journal reported. Murdoch hasn't shown any interest in raising his bid, the paper added.

The Financial Times also reported that News Corp. will meet Dow Jones directors this week, adding that the meeting will include News Corp. representatives and a special group of Dow Jones directors, and is expected to focus on price and other outstanding issues.

Bancroft, his two siblings, his niece and their children are beneficiaries of trusts that control about one-third of the Bancrofts' stake in Dow Jones.

The Bancroft family controls 64 percent of the company's voting power.

Christopher Bancroft is one of three family members on the Dow Jones board. He did not return a message seeking comment. *Reuters*

Philippine Economic Zone Authority

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY – BATAAN ECONOMIC ZONE (PEZA-BEZ), through its Corporate Budget for the CY 2007 intends to apply the sum of **Php 12,826,439.20** being the **Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)** to payments under the contract for the **Security Services for the Bataan Economic Zone (BEZ)** located at BEZ, Mariveles, Bataan. Bids received in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.
2. The PEZA-BEZ now invites sealed Bids from Eligible Bidders for the above mentioned contract as described below:

   Brief Description : Supply of Personnel, Equipment, Implements, Supplies and Supervision
   Contract Duration : One (1) calendar year
   Delivery Period : Within 15 days after Notice to Proceed

   The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS (ITB)**.
3. Prospective bidder shall submit together with the other eligibility requirements proofs of ownership or lease contracts for the required vehicles and equipment as listed in the T.O.R.
4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino Citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, or to citizens of or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from PEZA-BEZ and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from July 16 to 23, 2007, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., from the address below upon submission of a **Letter of Intent (LOI)** and a certified copy of their **Phil G-EPS Registration Certificate** and the **BIR e-fps Enrollment Certificate** upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos Only (Php1,000.00). The method of payment will be on a **cash basis** only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
7. The PEZA-BEZ will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **July 30, 2007, 2:00 p.m.** at the Audio-Visual Room, 2nd Floor, BEZ Administration Building, BEZ, Mariveles, Bataan.
8. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 1:30 P.M. of August 14, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable Letter of Credit in the amount of not less than Php 128,264.39, Bank Guarantee in the amount of not less than Php 192,396.58 or in the form of Surety Bond in the amount of not less than Php 320,660.97. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
9. Bid opening shall be on August 14, 2007 at 2:00 P.M. at the Audio-Visual Room, 2nd Floor, BEZ Administration Building, BEZ, Mariveles, Bataan. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
10. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
11. The PEZA-BEZ reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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(Sgd.) **DIONISIO T. SAMEN**
BEZ-BAC Chairman

Noted:
(Sgd.) **DANTE M. QUINDOZA**
Zone Administrator

(PDI – July 10 & 17, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY
(Public Estates Authority)
7/F Legaspi Towers 200 Bldg., 107 Paseo de Roxas St.,
Legaspi Village, 1226 City of Makati
Tel. Nos. (02) 817-4711 to 13; (02) 813-1441 to 45; Facsimile No. (02)815-2662
Website: www.pea.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
SUPPLY FOR MANPOWER SERVICES (07-013)

1. The Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), through its corporate budget intends to apply the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) in the sum of **Four Million Nine Hundred Twenty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Five Pesos and 40/100 (Php 4,927,355.40)**, inclusive of VAT, under the contract for the Supply for Manpower Services. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PRA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply for Manpower Services for twelve (12) months. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II and Annex "A" of Section III of the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB).
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents starting **July 24, 2007** from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased from **July 24 to August 1, 2007** by interested Bidders from the BAC Secretariat and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00)**. The method of payment will be cash or check payable to PRA. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The PRA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **July 31, 2007** at 10:00 A.M. at the PRA Conference Room, 8th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the PRA Office on or before **August 14, 2007** at 1:15 P.M. (PRA 7th floor wall clock time). All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount indicated in the BDS. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **August 14, 2007** at 1:30 P.M. at the PRA Conference Room, 8th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. Prospective Bidders should have undertaken a similar undertaking in the last three (3) years, and should have key personnel and services / equipment available for the manpower services contemplated herein.
10. Pursuant to BIR Revenue Regulations 03-2005, all prospective bidders are mandated to file their income and business tax returns electronically using the Electronic Filing and Payment System (EFPS).
11. The PRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.
12. The PRA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) JAIME R. MILLAN
BAC Chairman

(PDI–July 17 & 23, 2007)

AUCTION

www.henrybutcher.com

HEAVY EQUIPMENT; TRUCKS; CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT; ETC.

Sale Date: Tuesday, July 24, 2007 at 10:30am
At: 1 Pearl St., Doña Juliana Subdivision; Bo. Ugong, Pasig City
On View: Monday, July 23, 2007 from 9am to 5pm
or earlier by appointment
Refundable Deposit: Php20,000 (upon registration)

HEAVY EQUIPMENT- LINKBELT SPEEDER LS 108 40 tons Crane; CLARK 125c Pay Loader; KOMATSU D60P Bulldozer; CATERPILLAR D6C Bulldozer; MITSUI DB2E Minidozer; MAZDA Backhoe; ISUZU Elf Backhoe; SAKAI 3-Wheeler Road Roller; KOMATSU JV-32 Vibro Roller YAMASAKI 10 Tons Cap. Vibro Roller; KUBOTA Mini Vibro Roller; INTERNATIONAL Tractor Head; 40 ft. High Bed Trailer; REO 5 Tons Cap. 10 Wheeler Truck; ISUZU 6x6 Cargo Truck; Semi Low Bed Trailer; ISUZU Dropside Pick-Up; KIA CERES Dropside Pick-Up; etc.
CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS - BETONMATIC Batching Plant (60 cubic meter/hour); INGERSOLL-RAND 100 PSI Air Compressor; PERKINS 75 kva Genset; NISSAN SD-22 25kva Genset; Steam Generator; Cement Mixer; Mortar Pump Mixer; SHIN MEIWA Plastering Machines; Concrete Pipe Mould; Plate Bender; Mixing Silo; MITSUBISHI MA 400-E AC Arc Welder; Oxy-Acetylene Tank; Wheel Barrow, Steel Water Pipes; PVC Pipes; Steel I-Beam; Steel Angle Bars; Spiral Pipes; Steel Window Frames; Stainless Chemical Sprayer; etc.
MISCELLANEOUS - Vertical / Horizontal Steel Storage Tank; MC GRAW-EDISON 50 kva Transformer; KRER-500 43 kva Dry Type Transformer; ABB 37.5 Transformer; WESTINGHOUSE DT-3 75 kva Dry Type Transformer; Cardinal 15 kg Grad. Electric Weighing Scale w/ Control Panel; Gate Valves; Check Valves; Fuel Pumps; Flanges; Reducers; Elbows; Couplings; Asstd. Filters; Asstd. Bolts; Hydraulic Hoses; Asstd. Induction Motors; Asstd. Metal Scraps; 40' / 20' Container Vans; Electrical Items; etc.

AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT; CLASSIC CARS

Located At: 958 J.P. Rizal cor. P. Gomez St., Makati City
On View: Monday, July 23, 2007 from 9am to 5pm

HESHBON 51G 3500 kg Car Lift; HUNTER 511 Wheel Balancer; RANGER Low Rise Lifts; HOFMANN Geodyna 1100; RAV G8LON Swing Tyre Changer; FORD Mustang (NEX-719); Suburban (UER-786); TOYOTA Corona (Parts Car); Vending Machine

NOTE: Aforementioned equipment will be sold at Doña Juliana Subdivision. We strongly recommend that all interested parties conduct an ocular inspection

GoIndustry Henry Butcher
INDUSTRIAL ASSET DISPOSAL AND VALUATION
Contact: Mike Ramos
Tel: +63 2 822 5555 Loc. 129
mike.ramos@goindustry.com

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel No 893-1320, Local 5279

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

3,096 cubic meter of ready mix concrete	*GO-705610*	PHP 12,975,460.00
630 cubic meter of ready mix concrete	*GT 705087*	PHP 2,761,350.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Eloisa J. Hufana** and at Leyte Geothermal Production Field c/o **Rudy B. Pol** starting **July 13, 2007**, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 1,500.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held in Leyte Geothermal Production Field on **July 26, 2007, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply, Property and Materials Management Division at the above address for Manila bidders simultaneously with Leyte Geothermal Production Field for Visayas bidders, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later **than 2:00 p.m. (Supply Management's Office Wall Clock time) of August 9, 2007.** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI - July 17, 2007)

AUCTION

www.henrybutcher.com

Sale By Live Auction
Generator Sets; Heavy Equipment/Vehicle; Industrial Equipment; Miscellaneous

Sale Date: Thursday, 19 July 2007 at 10:30am
At: #88 Rimas Road, Malabon City

GENERATOR SETS: 600 KVA Diesel Generator; ISUZU 75 KVA Diesel Engine Generator Set; HOKUETSU INDUSTRIES 15 KVA Generator; MARUZEN 10 KVA Diesel Generator; ISUZU Diesel Generator; etc.
HEAVY EQUIPMENT/VEHICLE: Canter Truck; TCM 2 T. Forklifts; Stainless 16 Passenger Cap. Jeepney; etc.
INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT: ESARY TRON WORK Press; KONOR Press; 3000 PSI Hydraulic Press; SMITH-DRUM Lathe; MAXIMAT Lathe; FUKUMO Planer; Lubricating Machine; Milling Machine; PEM Jupee 400 Cutting Machine; HITACHI TS-ARC Welding Machine; Asstd Welding Machines; FUJI 3000 PSI Air Compressor; HITACHI Air Compressor; FUKURA Air Compressor; TOSHIBA Air Compressor; Assorted Japan Brand Compressors; CYCLOTHERM DIVISION 150 HP Steam Boiler; NEW YORK Industrial 250 HP Steam Boiler etc.
MISCELLANEOUS: POWER COM Transformer; ALLIS CHALMER Induction Motor; TECO Induction Motor; Asstd Sizes Japan Brand Gear Motors; Elephant Heavy Duty Chain Hoists; TOSHIBA Water Pump Motor; Jet-O-Matic Steam Washer; ZANDER INGESTROM Steam Washer; BESLA Blower; Large Quantity Heating Elements; Asstd KUBOTA Engines; Powell Valves; Malleable Valves; Asstd Gate Valves; Heavy Duty Pulley; Pallet Jacks; Asstd Water Filters; Asstd Electrical Cables; Asstd Electrical Spare Parts; Asstd Metal Tubing/Piping; Asstd Integrated Circuits; Assorted Rollers; Steel I-beams; Large Quantity Steel Scraps: etc.

On View: Wednesday, 18 July 2007 from 9am to 5pm & morning of sale day
Refundable Deposit: Php5,000 (upon registration)

GoIndustry Henry Butcher
Contact: JENNY, JESSA or DANG
Tel: 822 5555 Fax: 822-3333
Email: manila@goindustry.com

ONLINE

www.henrybutcher.com

On the instructions of STARCM, Dept. of Agrarian Reform Republic of the Phils.

ONLINE AUCTION SALE
4 Land Rover Freelander Td4 2001 Model Sports Utility Vehicles

(Vehicles Require Attention. Please Inquire For Defect Details)
Sale Closing: Wednesday, 25th July 2007 at 18:00 CCT
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OBITUARIES

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

ANTONIO ZAPANTA GANGCUANGCO

Peacefully joined his Creator on July 13, 2007 at the age of 71.

His bereaved wife **Esperanza Gangcuangco**
Children: **Angelito, Arthur, Edna** and **Ethel**
Grandchildren: **AJ, Osie, Cyrille, Charmaine, Monica** and **Cherrylyne**
In Laws: **Susan, Connie** and **Alfred**

Brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence on Dapitan Street, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on July 21, 2007.

ROSANNA ELOISA PAPA SARGAN

(JANUARY 3, 1957 – JULY 14, 2007)

Rosanne is survived by her family Elisa, Jun, RJ, Robin, Rejy and Lito; her siblings Ricky and Paloming, Boy and Shalene, Rosie, Rey and Tinggoy; her nephews and nieces, relatives and friends.

Her cremains lie at San Lorenzo Chapel, Sta. Maria della Strada Parish, Katipunan Ave., Quezon City until today, July 17, 2007. Mass will be celebrated at 7:00 tonight.

Inurnment will be on Sunday, July 22, 2007 following a Mass at 2:00 pm at the Shrine of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Manlunas St., Villamor Air Base, Pasay City (across NAIA 3).

Death Notice

PHILIP ABONG, Sr.

peacefully joined our Lord on July 11, 2007 at the age of 41.

His remains lie in state at Chapel F, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation today, July 17, 2007 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.

Tel. Nos. : 712-3001 • 749-3806 to 11

NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF WAKE	INTERMENT/CREMATION DATE & TIME	INTERMENT/CREMATION PLACE
Atty. Ricardo Culzon-Peralejo, Sr.	Superior Chapel	July 17, 2007 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass	Libingan ng mga Bayani Taguig, Rizal
Josefina Q. Velasco	Chapel-H	17-July-07, 9:00 a.m.	San Felipe Neri
Rodrigo Español	Chapel-E	17-July-07, 3:00 p.m.	Heaven's Gate 1, Antipolo City

BUSINESS

UCPB and GCash Bring OFWs Closer To Home

(from left) UCBP Vice President for Remittance Marketing Victor Ruben Tuason, UCPB First Vice President Raul Tan, UCPB Executive Vice President Higinio O. Macadaeg, Jr., GXI President Rizza Maniego-Eala, GXI Financial & Gov't Services Head Paolo Baltao, GXI Business Dev't Head Martin Garcia

United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB), one of the established commercial banks in the country, and G-Xchange, Inc. (GXI), a subsidiary of Globe Telecom and a pioneer in m-commerce, have joined forces to make it easier and more convenient for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) to send money back to their loved ones in the Philippines.

With UCPB's U-remit and GCash's newly launched Advise and Pay service, UCPB reaches out to the OFW families residing outside its current service areas. In addition to the 212 UCPB and UCPB Savings Bank branches nationwide, beneficiaries can now claim their remittances in the growing number of GCash outlets all over the country. The GCash outlets, like business centers, exchange counters, pawnshops, rural banks, are located not only in the major urban areas but also in smaller, far-flung municipalities and barangays where there is heavy concentration of OFW beneficiaries.

"This is a landmark partnership that will deliver immense benefits to our OFW clients in terms of giving them wider options for sending remittances to their beneficiaries," said UCPB Vice President for Remittance Marketing Victor Ruben Tuason. "The OFWs can have the remittance credited directly to their beneficiaries' UCPB or UCPB Savings bank account or immediately claim the cash at any UCPB branch or GCash outlet."

"We are glad to be of assistance to the growing OFW community worldwide and their dependents here in the Philippines by providing not only innovative, but most importantly, relevant and easy to use remittance services," GXI President Rizza Maniego-Eala said. "By offering the strength of the GCash platform to the Philippine banking industry, we aim to work together with our partners to contribute in enabling seamless delivery of remittances from OFWs abroad to their beneficiaries here in the country."

UCPB has been increasing its capability to serve the growing needs of Filipinos working abroad and their families here in the Philippines. Recently, the bank set up a dedicated OFW banking unit to focus solely on developing programs that will cater to OFWs: from pre-departure loans, to remittance services, to housing loans, auto loans, educational loans, small business loans, investment and retirement planning. It is also entering into agreements with other businesses, similar to this joint effort with GXI, to give OFWs convenient access to a wider range products and services.

"Our goal is to be able to meet all the OFWs' banking requirements at every stage of the overseas employment cycle, from the moment they get their foreign contracts to the time they get settled in their jobs abroad and begin sending money back to their relatives here, all the way up to the point where they are well off enough to begin building their savings and investments in preparation for retiring from overseas work for good," Mr. Tuason said.

The combined U-remit and GCash Advise & Pay service simplifies the remittance transaction into these three easy steps:

1) The OFW files and pays for a remittance order with any UCPB partner abroad.
2) The OFW informs the beneficiary of the GCash Advise & Pay reference number. The GCash Advise & Pay service also provides the option for the beneficiary, who has a Globe or TM phone, to get a text notification.
3) The beneficiary goes to any participating GCash outlet, shows proper identification, and presents the GCash Advise & Pay reference number to claim the remittance.

To assist the OFW beneficiaries, they can call the GCash Hotline (dial 2882 from any Globe Handyphone or TM mobile phone or 02-7392882 from any landline) for the nearest GCash outlet participating in the Advise & Pay service or for any inquiries they may have.

UCPB's Victor Ruben Tuason with GXI's Rizza Maniego-Eala

(L-R) UCPB's Raul Tan, UCPB's Higinio O. Macadaeg, Jr., GXI's Rizza Maniego-Eala and GXI's Paolo Baltao at the MOA signing ceremony

GXI's Rizza Maniego-Eala (center) with UCPB's Victor Ruben Tuason (left) and UCPB's Higinio O. Macadaeg, Jr. (right)

UCPB remit GCASH POWER TO THE PEOPLE! TM ang lakas mo sa Globe

6-mo dollar inflows beat BSP target

Remittances seen to reach $14B in '07

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE NET DOLLAR INFLOWS INTO THE economy have exceeded the central bank's full-year forecast only six months into the year, as expatriate Filipinos continued to send home their foreign currency earnings, data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) showed.

In a text message to reporters, BSP Govenor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. said the country's balance of payments (BOP) account had already reached $3.199 billion in the first semester of the year.

This is higher than the $2.9-billion BOP level that the central bank had expected for the entire 2007. In 2006, the country posted a net dollar inflow surplus of $3.769 billion—which will likely be exceeded given recent trends.

The BOP account is the aggregate measure of all dollar flows into or out of the local economy by way of direct and portfolio investments, remittances, export receipts and payment for debt and services, among others.

A strong BOP surplus adds to the central bank's dollar stash and helps push the value of the peso higher against the US dollar. Conversely, BOP deficits drain the country's gross international reserves and contribute to a weak currency.

"Continued strong foreign exchange inflows in the first six months came in the form mainly of overseas Filipino remittances, merchandise exports, foreign investments and investment income of the BSP," Tetangco said.

Last month alone, a BOP surplus of $834 million was reported, giving June the strongest net dollar inflow level for 2007.

"The surplus was achieved even with the debt servicing that included debt prepayments," Tetangco said.

The central bank has yet to indicate whether it would revise its full-year BOP forecast upward, given the latest developments.

Earlier, BSP said that remittances sent

6-MO DOLLAR/ B2

3 agro-industrial zones approved

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUthority yesterday said it had approved the applications for the first three agro-industrial ecozones in the country.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila, who is also Peza chair, said the new agro-industrial ecozones were the Philippine Packing Agricultural Export Processing Zone in Cagayan de Oro City, the Bukidnon Agro-Industrial Export Zone and the PIPC Cagayan North in Cagayan province.

"These ecozones would serve as the economic drivers in the communities where they will be located," Favila said.

"The ecozones would spur the development of surrounding areas by providing livelihood and job opportunities in food, transport, small retail business, housing and others," he added.

Lilia B. de Lima, Peza director general, explained that agro-industrial ecozones were meant to promote industry linkages through the production of high-value added and better-quality agricultural products geared primarily for the export market.

Philippine Packing Management Services Corp. would develop and operate both the 27-hectare property Cagayan de Oro and the 46-hectare project in Bukidnon.

At the same time, Pampanga Industrial Park Corp. is the proponent of the 50-hectare ecozone in Lallo town, Cagayan.

Pru Life UK, the local subsidiary of British financial services giant Prudential plc, introduces yet another new breakthrough in the Philippine insurance industry.

The Company, commended for introducing Pru Link in the Philippines five years ago, is setting a new standard in the local insurance landscape with its PruLink Protection Plus or PPPlus.

The new product is an investment-linked life insurance that provides for hospitalization, critical illness and accident protection.

PPPlus, launched on June 1 at 1 Esplanade at SM Complex in Pasay City, affords extended medical care, pays daily hospital income for up to 365 days and covers 36 critical illnesses.

Company executives lauded PPPlus for encompassing more bases and providing total protection to discerning customers.

Pru Life UK President and Chief Executive Nishit Majmudar and Vice President for Marketing Services Belle Tiongco said PPPlus is the Company's bold response to the increasing demand of people for hospitalization and critical illness benefits in their life insurance policies.

"I have rarely ever known a market where the people are not under-insured. The Philippines is no exception," Mr. Majmudar said, adding that PPPlus "is very flexible".

Mr. Majmudar also noted that the new investment-linked life insurance product "provides comprehensive insurance protection to customers in a manner that meets their changing needs throughout their lifetime. I am confident that this product will reconfirm our position as a market leader in product innovation".

Ms. Tiongco agreed, noting that the introduction of PPPlus reinforces the Company's leadership in the Philippine life insurance industry.

"Since its entry 10 years ago, Pru Life UK has always been a product innovator in the local life insurance scene. We changed the life playing field with our introduction of investment-linked life policies, which served to expand the industry as a whole. The consumers can count on Pru Life UK to continue this tradition of truly responsive and superior products. After all, this Company has pledged to always listen to and always understand its customers' needs," Ms. Tiongco said.

ADVT

IN THIS ISSUE
Partnership with miles to go /C2

Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

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✓ Strengthens immune System
✓ Develops Stronger Bones
✓ Promotes Healthy Aging
DESIGNER WHEY Because you care for your health

INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

Minding the self

"WHERE YOUR MIND IS, THERE too is your destiny."

Where is your mind, most experts on self-empowerment ask.

Countless books have been written about the innate mental abilities of human beings for concentration, creativity, analysis, etc. While the techniques to improve the power of the brain may be varied, there are practical ways to develop your very own natural regimen.

Our focus may not so much be brain power, but your state of mind. And, basically, this is one of the pillars of wellness. It is said that wherever your mind is, there also is the path you will take.

What are you thinking?

Have you ever thought about your thoughts? It's like observing yourself. In short, you are watching what you are doing—like stepping outside of yourself for a minute.

Exercises:

Unmasking

Look at your reflection in the mirror. Smile. Stop frowning. Take that serious look off your face. It will not invite lightness into your life.

Mirror speak

Break the silence. Say something to yourself. Anything positive will do. Say: "Hi, Mr. Miracle or Ms. Victory (if you prefer Mr./Ms. Universe, that is okay, too)."

Often, we fill our minds with too much garbage, noise, barriers, complaints. What escapes our lips is "I have a problem" or "Life sucks." The question is, are you content with this? If so, how long do you intend to do this to yourself?

Mind cleansing

If we feel the need to cleanse the body from time to time to rid it of toxins built up over months or years of abuse, then why not the mind?

There are consequences created by our consciousness. Here is a simple example: Upon waking up in the morning, fill your mind with such thoughts as a smiling you, an energetic/active day, a contract signed, a job interview passed, a bouquet of roses received, a balance of one million pesos in your checking/deposit account—whatever tickles your fancy.

A promise

All good things come from a positive outlook. And a positive outlook is rooted in a happy state of mind. Since the mind is a thought thoroughfare, you are bound to encounter traffic.

Thus, there is a need to have traffic lights with permanent red lights to stop negative thoughts and permanent green lights to grant unrestricted access to positive thoughts.

The promise is good results. In his book "Make a Life, Not Just a Living," Dr. Ron Jenson, American life coach says, "If you're going to become a person who makes things happen—if you really want to be a difference-maker, then you need to become disciplined. You need to put a coach, a governor over your thoughts and actions."

Unloading stress

Any thought that your mind entertains that is followed with "I can't" will only attract failure. Constantly bombarding the self with disaster and darkness weighs heavily on the mind. This is called stress.

Therefore, if you intend to have a pleasant day today, start by unloading your mind's memory card. If a camera requires deletion of badly taken photos, then the mind needs purging of all negative thoughts.

Chances are, there is negative programming stored in you from as far back as your childhood.

State of bliss

There is a secret to a serene face. It is the mask-less look of somebody who is centered based on a choice—of bliss. To choose bliss means to reject bitterness. It means you are safe knowing that goodness is in your life no matter what challenges or complications there may be.

Blissful bath

Go to a flower shop and ask for all their assorted loose flower petals. At home, rinse petals in a bowl of water with one tablespoon of baking soda (to remove impurities or chemicals). Add your favorite bath oil or bubble bath. Sprinkle on your warm tub and soak in the splendor of flowers.

Positive menu

If, as a child, your mother/family/friends called you an ugly duckling, erase this painful memory immediately and repeat to yourself this affirmation: "I am a swan."

Love and light!

Autism conference set Sept. 1-2 in Hong Kong

THE ASIAN AUTISM CONFERENCE 2007 will be held Sept. 1-2 in Hong Kong by the Autism Parents Network Foundation.

The conference aims to give participants insights into various treatments and interventions for Autism Syndrome Disorder (ASD).

Research on environmental toxins, dietary interventions, autoimmune theory, methylation theory, vitamins and supplements, and hyberbaric oxygen treatment, among others, are expected to be discussed.

Dr. Ken Bock, a Defeat Autism Now! clinician, will explain why the gut and diet are the first step on the road to recovery.

Dr. Stephanie F. Cave will give some information on new vaccines.

Dr. Martha Herbert, pediatric neurologist, will discuss how research treatment of system-wide abnormalities may improve brain function.

Also expected are Dr. Jeff Bradstreet, founder of the International Child Development Resource Center in Florida; Dr. Doreen Granpeesheh, founder of The Center for Autism and Related Disorders; Dr. Andrew Levinson, founder of Vitality Health & Wellness; Dr. Liz Mumper, general pediatrician; Dr. James Neubrander, a pioneer in the use of Vitamin Methyl B12; Dr. James Partington of the Star School in California on Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA); and Dr. David Quiq, Ph.D in Nutritional Biochemistry.

Some parents will also share their experiences in applying biomedical intervention and ABA therapy.

Cost is HK$1200 or US$155 (about P7,100) per participant for the two-day conference. For a group of four, the discounted price is HK$4000 or US$515 (about P23,600).

To register by mail, download and complete registration form. Send with check made out to Autism Parents Network Foundation Limited (US dollar accepted) to: Sheron Wong, MP International (HKG) Ltd., Pico House, 4 Dai Fu Street, Tai Po Industrial Estate, New Terrotories, Hong Kong. Please write Asian Autism Conference on the envelope.

Applications received after seats are filled will be returned. Register early as seating is limited.

E-mail autism@mphk.com

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Your Doctor Knows Best

Eugene B. Reyes, MD, FPCP, FPCC

Question:

At times I get dizzy and feel pain in my nape area. I also experience headaches often. Could these mean that I have high blood pressure?

Doctor says...

PAIN or numbness in the nape area, headaches and getting dizzy often could not necessarily mean that you are hypertensive. As a matter of fact, people who have high blood pressure often do not feel any symptoms at all.

High blood pressure or hypertension does not present with any identifiable symptoms, that is why it is called a "silent killer". You may be going through your daily routines without even knowing that your blood pressure is already way above the ideal. The best way to know if you are hypertensive is to have your blood pressure checked by a healthcare professional.

One can be called hypertensive if his blood pressure is persistently elevated. An elevated blood pressure is defined as a blood pressure reading of 140 on systolic (the first number in a blood pressure reading) and 90 on diastolic (the second number in a blood pressure reading).

For adults, the ideal blood pressure should be maintained at less than or equal to 130/80, especially for those who have other conditions like diabetes and heart failure. However, the lower the blood pressure, the better. For me, the ideal blood pressure for adults should be maintained at less than or equal to 120/70.

There are a lot of factors that could put a person at risk for hypertension. First among these is having a parent who is hypertensive. Second is bad habits, like eating salty foods, sedentary lifestyle, stress, obesity and smoking. And finally, aging is a risk factor that one cannot prevent. Reaching the age of 55 and above increases one's chances of developing hypertension.

If you are hypertensive, you may be at risk of developing other diseases or conditions associated with high blood pressure like diabetes, obesity, and metabolic syndrome. It even increases one's chances of having heart attack, stroke, eye and kidney diseases, and problems with blood flow in the arteries.

The best way to manage hypertension is to change your lifestyle. Start with a healthy diet by eating less salt, avoiding monosodium glutamate, and by eating more fruits and vegetables. Avoiding smoking, achieving ideal weight by reducing caloric intake and exercising regularly, can also help manage hypertension.

When everything else fails, start drug treatment. Individualized treatment is what I recommend. If you are hypertensive, try to target normal blood pressure, which is less than or equal 120/70 and not 140/90. Remember that for blood pressure, the lower, the better.

Most importantly, always consult your doctor for the right management of your hypertension.

Dr. Reyes is a Cardiologist. He has clinics at the Manila Doctors Hospital, Cardiac Care Center, and Philippine General Hospital.

This column is supported by AstraZeneca Philippines as part of its disease awareness campaign. This is not intended to replace the advice of a healthcare professional. Always consult your doctor.

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M|ANELS

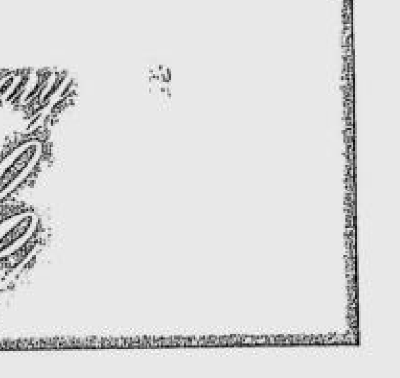
ALL BRANCHES NATIONWIDE

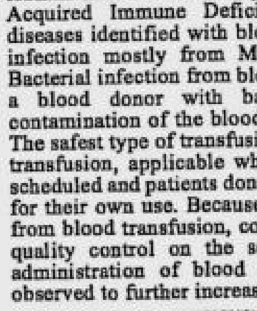
MEDICard, The Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge Doc!

Is there a risk of having diseases in Blood Transfusion?

Blood transfusion is a medical treatment to replace significant blood loss from injury, surgery, or disease. Although it could save lives, it carries with it certain risks that can arise from improper screening of blood donors, handling, storing and administration of blood or its components. The main risk of a blood transfusion is the accidental transfusion with the wrong blood type causing hemolytic transfusion reaction, a severe and sometimes life-threatening reaction. Luckily, the most common adverse reaction to blood transfusion is febrile non-hemolytic transfusion reaction, which consists of fever resolving on its own that is usually non fatal; and mild allergic reaction which occurs in 4 out of 100 units of blood transfused. The transmission of a disease through blood transfusion is very rare. It is mostly associated with viral infections, the most common is Hepatitis B which occurs in one out of 63,000 units of blood transfused, followed by Hepatitis C and Human immune deficiency virus (HIV) which can lead to Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome(AIDS). Other diseases identified with blood transfusion include parasitic infection mostly from Malaria and bacterial infections. Bacterial infection from blood transfusion could come from a blood donor with bacterial infection or bacterial contamination of the blood at the time of blood collection. The safest type of transfusion is known as autologous blood transfusion, applicable when transfusion is anticipated or scheduled and patients donate their own blood ahead of time for their own use. Because of the risk of acquiring disease from blood transfusion, continuous improvement and strict quality control on the screening, handling, testing and administration of blood and its components should be observed to further increase safety of transfusion therapy.





Dr. Arlene Yason enlightens us regarding blood transfusion. Dr. Yason, a medicine graduate of Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, had her residency training for Internal Medicine at the MPI-Medical Center Muntinlupa in 2003. She is a member of the Philippine College of Physicians and the Muntinlupa City Medical Society. Dr. Yason spends her free time reading, swimming, shopping and travelling with her family. She She also loves dining out, attending scientific meetings and going to the spa with her husband Dr. Jay Michael Yason. MEDICard members may seek for her consultations at Divine Mercy Hospital from Monday to Saturday 9-12 noon and at Garcia General Hospital every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 3 to 5pm.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

MEDICard PHILIPPINES, INC.: 9th floor Sagittarius Building H.V. dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227 Trunkline: 88-4-8888 Fax No.: 894-5720, 810-3858 Text: Key in MEDICARD and send to 2327 Globe subscribers and (0917) 890-2327 for non-Globe subscribers E-mail: inquiry@medicardphils.com Website: www.medicardphils.com

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A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT

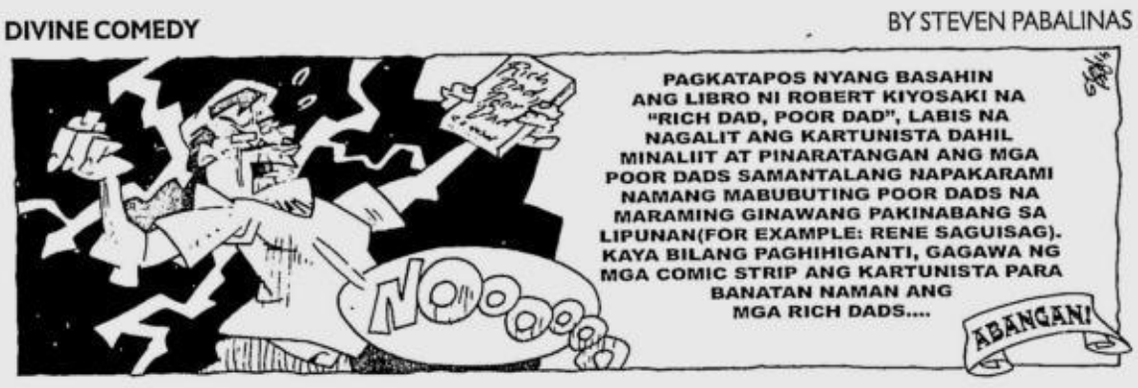
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS



KIKO MACHINE
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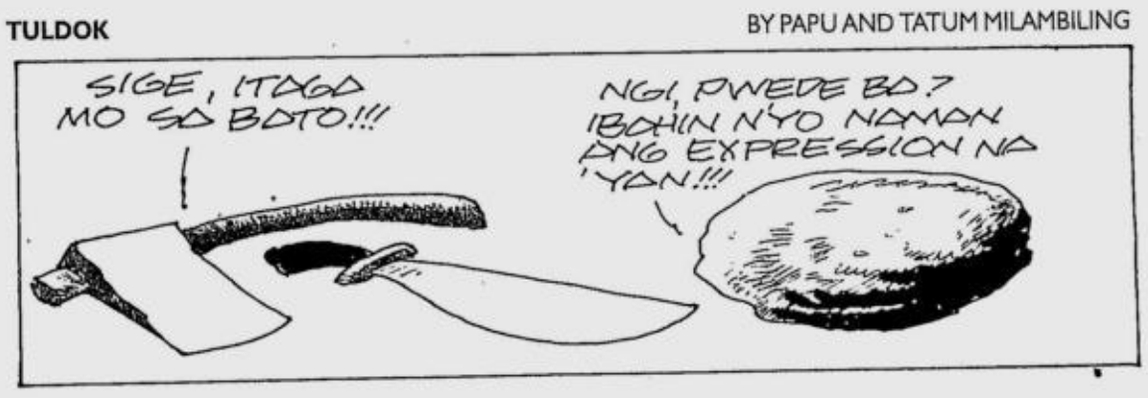
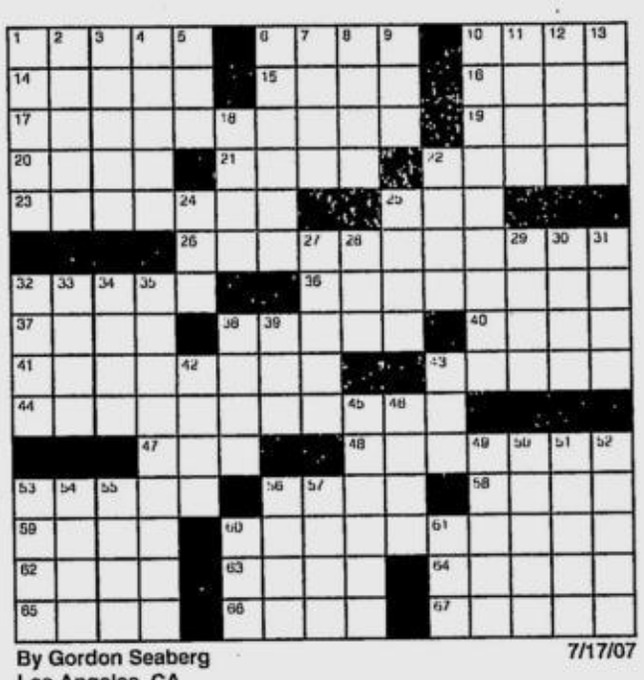
TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Petco Park pro
6 Junky car
10 Whirling water
14 Buck of K.C. Monarchs
15 Complexion woe
16 Amateur sports grp.
17 Aristotle Onassis to Caroline Kennedy
19 Flaccid
20 A few
21 Get taller
22 Talks nonsense
23 Catch in a net
25 Old cloth
26 Drew Barrymore to Steven Spielberg
32 Weasel family member
36 Musical opening
37 Ohio/Ontario separator
38 Port and hock
40 Actress Falco
41 Layered dessert
43 Upright, as hair
44 David to Keith Carradine
47 Speak
48 North Pole, for Santa
53 Acts like an usher
56 Hatcher or Garr
58 Send out
59 Letters on a pork loin
60 Ted Kennedy to Rose Schlossberg
62 Hit squarely
63 Feels unwell
64 Vexation
65 Messy substance
66 Forfeiture
67 Give one's word

DOWN
1 Search party
2 Composer Bruckner
3 Judges
4 Mature
5 Santa's helper
6 Loathing
7 Sound rebound
8 Freshly
9 Allocation word
10 Edify
11 CLI quadrupled
12 Titled lady
13 Barks shrilly
18 Farming prefix
22 NHL's Jaromir
24 Grow older
25 Feels remorse
27 Bear claw's cousin
28 Caesar's hail
29 Disposition, in slang
30 Emerald Isle
31 Mouthpiece insert
32 Thomas of clocks
33 Song for Sills
34 Engage in logrolling
35 Petiole
38 Thin but strong
39 Late starter?
42 Post-grad degs.
43 California fort
45 Badger
46 Revise for print
49 Extend a subscription
50 Intro maestro
51 Local trees
52 Take the wheel
53 Warbled
54 Genesis twin
55 Tennis situation, briefly
56 Small combo
57 Morays
60 Four qts.
61 Emotional peaks

By Gordon Seaberg
Los Angeles, CA
7/17/07

Monday's Puzzle Solved

A	L	A		B	A	U	G	H		T	O	T	E	D
H	I	D		A	S	T	R	O		O	K	A	P	I
E	N	D		R	H	E	A	P	E	R	L	M	A	N
A	G	I	O				S	E	P	I	A			
D	U	C	K	S	O	U	P		I	N	H	A	L	E
	A	T	D	A	W	N		S	C	O	O	T	E	R
				R	E	A	T	A			M	O	O	R
	R	O	B	I	N	W	I	L	L	I	A	M	S	
K	I	W	I			E	L	L	E	N				
I	C	E	C	O	L	D		O	D	O	U	R	S	
M	A	S	E	R	U		S	W	A	N	L	A	K	E
			P	I	N	Z	A				T	I	E	S
G	O	O	S	E	G	O	S	L	I	N		S	T	P
A	R	L	E	N		O	H	A	R	E		E	C	O
B	R	E	S	T		M	A	C	A	O		R	H	O

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7/17/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You take whatever you do very seriously. Because you want to make a name for yourself, you're willing to work patiently and slowly to achieve your dreams. When others see these qualities in you, they're willing to invest in you. Sometimes you keep score through money, but more often, you want recognition. A lovely, social year awaits you! Enjoy loving relationships.
Birthdate of: Donald Sutherland, actor; Cory Doctorow, author/activist; David Hasselhoff, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): If you can be of service to anyone or be helpful to others today, it will please you. You have an urge to be useful. You don't want to waste your time.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This can be a playful, fun day for you. Romance is in the air! Call up a friend to do something sociable or enjoyable.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Call home today. Talk to family if you can, or enjoy time puttering about where you live. Your focus is on your domestic world.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This can be a busy but productive day doing errands, taking short trips and talking to siblings, relatives and neighbors. You're in the mood to chat, but you want to keep moving!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You can be successful when shopping today or when dealing with your financial world in some way. You might even come up with some new moneymaking ideas

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): The Moon is in your sign today, making you a bit more emotional than usual. However, at the same time, it can bring you an edge of good luck.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You need some privacy today. This will help you get your bearings and sort out whatever you're dealing with right now. (Grab some for yourself.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Talk to a female friend today. Either you need to vent or someone else does. (It's hard to keep your shirt on when you need to get something off your chest.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You should be aware that you might inadvertently call attention to yourself today in some way. In fact, bosses and VIPs are the ones who will notice. (Forewarned is forearmed!)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're restless! You need to do something different from your daily routine. Visit a park; talk to strangers or people from different backgrounds.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a good day to take care of red-tape details related to insurance matters, estates, inheritances and shared property. You'll feel pleased with yourself if you tackle some of these.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Today the Moon is opposite your sign, which can give you the feeling that others are opposing you. You should know this is not necessarily the case.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	2		3		1			
	5		6		9		7	1
	6					5		
8		4					2	5
		9				4		
2	3					9		7
		1					5	
7	9		4		6		8	
			8		5		3	

Difficulty Level ★★
7/17

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	4	8	6	2	5	1	9	7
7	1	9	4	8	3	5	2	6
5	2	6	9	7	1	8	3	4
8	7	3	1	5	9	6	4	2
6	5	2	7	4	8	3	1	9
1	9	4	2	3	6	7	5	8
4	8	7	5	1	2	9	6	3
2	6	1	3	9	7	4	8	5
9	3	5	8	6	4	2	7	1

Difficulty Level ★

SPA TREATS CLIENTS TO HEALTH DRINKS

Bluewater Day Spa Makati, together with Fruits Unlimited, a company selling all-natural juices, is treating its clients to free juice and salad on July 20 when Fruits Unlimited opens its new outlet. Available in such flavors as Angel's Passion, Pure C, Three C, Tropical Blend, Tropical Defender and Gentle Body Cleanse, Fruits Unlimited juices help detoxify the body and improve the immune system. Bluewater Day Spa Makati (817-3126, 817-5455, 0917-8810092) is at 103 Dela Rosa cor. Perea Sts., Legazpi Village, Makati.

FRUITS Unlimited

Wellness program for seniors

THE ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER GERIATRIC Center is unveiling its latest high-impact health program for senior members of the community.

The Adult Wellness Program (tel. 723010/0301 ext. 4175 or 4119; http://stluke.com/ph) is the first of its kind in the country. It is designed to help seniors discover and achieve physical, emotional, mental, spiritual and cultural fulfillment.

A holistic in-house, classroom-type course includes group and individual sessions in relaxation, creativity, prayer, music and singing, rhythmic activities and arts and crafts.

The classes will be conducted by experts in various fields. Lessons and actual exercises will cover physical fitness, spiritual meditation, poetry and music, creative arts and crafts, musical instruments playing, etc.

Instructors include classical musician Francisco Feliciano; playwright, fictionist, poet and essayist Vim Nadera; choral conductor Jonathan Velasco; arts, religion and education guru Leah Tolentino; former Madrigral Singer member Ella Baarde and theologian Emmanuel Garibay.

Meanwhile, St. Luke's Medical Center executives attended recently the Environmental Scanning and Systems Thinking Course, the first module under the Management Development Program for Healthcare Service Providers at the Asian Institute of Management in Makati City.

The course, designed for medical doctors with management positions in the hospital, was provided for in a Memorandum of Agreement between St. Luke's and AIM.

Dr. Joven R. Cuanang, St. Luke's senior vice president for medical affairs and medical director, said the hospital executives needed to learn management principles and improve their management skills to help achieve the hospital's goals.

The AIM designed the Management Development Program for Healthcare Service Providers in a modular way.

Classes for would-be moms

THE ASIAN HOSPITAL AND Medical Center and The Medical City now offer Ante-Natal Classes to help couples prepare for parenthood.

Ante-natal care includes medical attention for the expectant mother and her baby, proper nutrition, exercise, etc.

Supported by Avent, a leading infant feeding brand, the two hospitals are conducting regular free seminars for pregnant women that cover such topics as pregnancy, birth and baby care.

At the Asian Hospital & Medical Center (771-9000 to 9002 local 8073 or 8066 or the Genesis Center local 8391 or 8345), "Simply Maternal" is offered 8 a.m.-12 p.m., third and fourth Saturday of every other month.

The sessions cover pregnancy and labor and topics related to the baby's arrival. Participants learn what to expect during the first, second and third trimesters of pregnancy.

They are taught how to care for the new arrival—bathing, wrapping and carrying, benefits of breastfeeding, and required immunizations. Mothers also get general guidelines on health such as how to watch out for signs of illness.

The Medical City conducts its seminars, "Parenting 101," 1-5 p.m. every last Saturday of the month. They are organized by the Center for Patient Partnership (6356789 local 6444), in cooperation with the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics and Anesthesiology.

Topics include pre-natal and post-partum care, skin care during pregnancy, anaesthesia options for labor and delivery, and breastfeeding. Participants get tips from mothers who breastfed their babies.

Inner beauty meeting

THE INNER BEAUTY CONference (IBC) 2007 will be held 1-5:30 p.m., July 21, at the Elim Global Headquarters (tel. 722-6749), 51 10th St., Rolling Hills, New Manila, Quezon City. Another conference will be held 1-5:30 p.m., July 28, at the SM City Trade Hall, Cebu City. Entrance fee is P300. The conference, organized by inner-beauty crusader Didi Nakar Marañon, is called Kingdom Princess: An Event for Teen Girls. It is designed for girls aged 10-21 years, their mothers, aunts, grandmothers and teachers. During the conference the publication "If I Like Him So Much, Is He for Me? What to Do with Romantic Feelings" will be launched. Published by Springs Foundation, Inc., Is He for Me? offers wise and practical advice on how to deal with matters of the heart—particularly teenage crushes.

Walk and help a hungry child

TNT EXPRESS PHILIPPINES, AN express delivery company, will Walk the World at 4 p.m., July 29, at the Mall of Asia (MOA).

The event aims to raise awareness about hungry children and raise funds for the United Nations' World Food Program (WFP). It coincides with the celebration of Nutrition Awareness Month in July.

Walk the World will be followed by a free concert at the MOA Music Hall.

For the global event, people will walk through a 24-hour period in different time zones.

The Walk is delivering the message: "Child hunger has no place in this world."

The project was initiated by TNT in 2003 when its employees scaled the Great Wall of China to raise awareness on the gravity of child hunger and to generate funds for WFP's Global School Feeding Program.

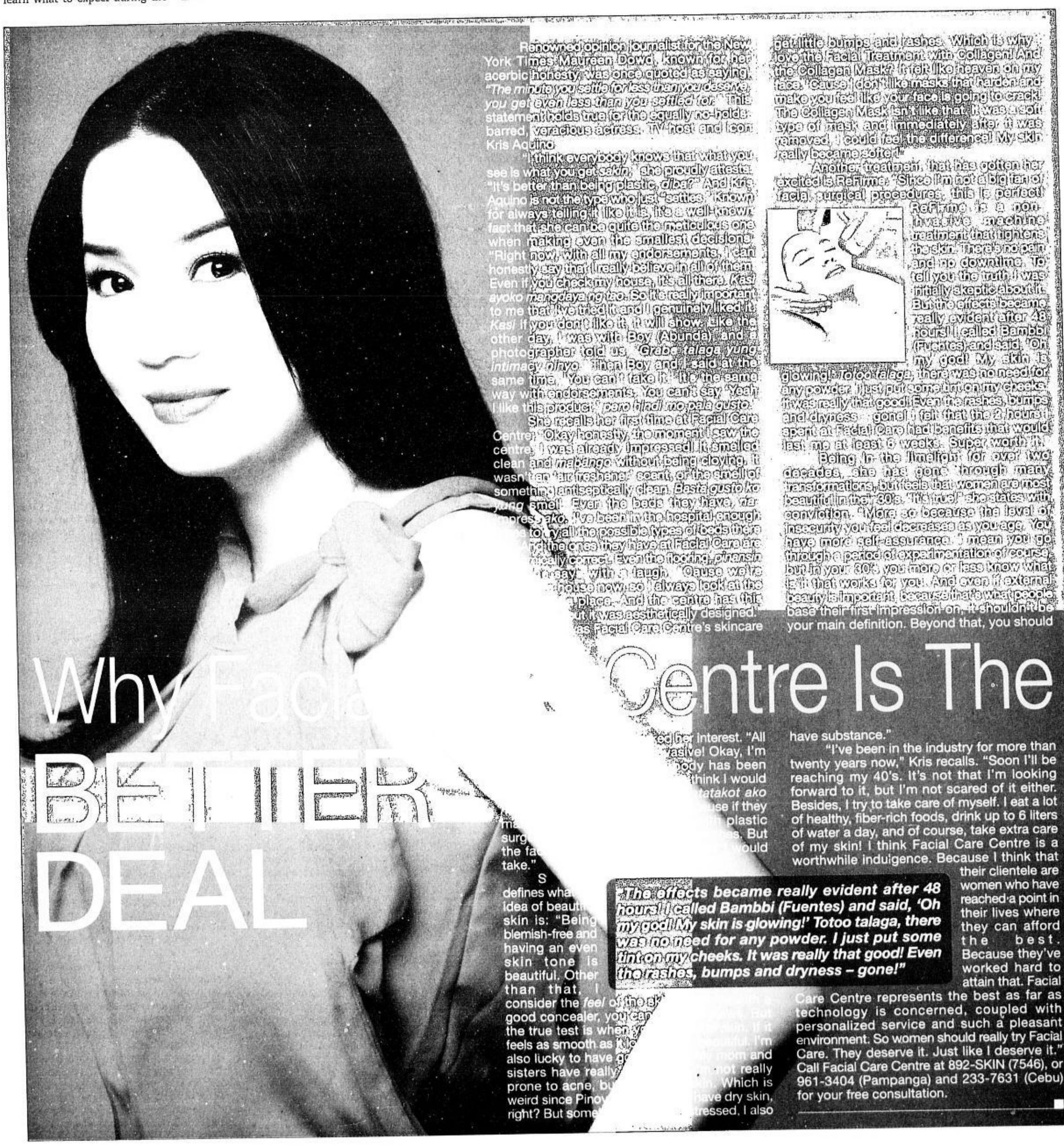
Of the 800 million people around the world suffering from hunger, about half are children who are dying at the rate of one every five seconds.

Hunger is more than just not having food. It also means not getting the required daily nutritional requirements.

Through school feeding program, an average of 90 million poor people meet their nutritional needs every year. This includes 58 million hungry children in at least 80 of the world's poorest countries.

Malnutrition hampers a child's physical, mental and emotional development, as well as greatly increases the risk of dying.

Participate in this global effort to save the lives of millions of hungry children around the world by wearing the Fight Hunger shirt. Text your name and land line number to 0918-9000852.



PAL'S cyber-smart officers Kit Javier and Ria Domingo

PAL'S Barbara Aragon and Citibank Cards's Bea Teh-Tan

PAL VP for marketing support Felix Cruz

CITIBANK'S Cecille Fonacier, People Asia's Joanne Rae-Ramirez (above); PAL's Henry So Uy and Citibank Philippines' Mark Jones

We say 'mabuhay' to a rewarding partnership

EDWARD Arandia, Dondi Gomez and Francis Flores

VIVA Hot Babe and TV personality Gwen Garci

UNILEVER executive Mario Lozano and TV personality Sam Oh

TV ACTOR, model and host Victor Basa

TV HOST and actress Avi Siwa

EVENTS specialist Robbie Carmona

THE NEW CITIBANK REWARDS program, as featured in the new catalog, offers more items at less points.

The new catalog also heralds the addition of Philippine Airlines' Mabuhay Miles as frequent-flyer program partner.

A fun get-together was held to launch Citibank Rewards 2007, dubbed "Citibank's widest and most exciting Rewards selection ever."

During the launch at the newly renovated Mezze Restaurant in Greenbelt 2, we mingled and rubbed elbows with hotshot executives from Citibank and PAL as we got an exciting preview of Citibank Rewards 2007.

Cardholders can now get free flights and upgrades via PAL when they redeem Mabuhay Miles with their Rewards Points. Not bad, huh?

All present and accounted for at the event were Citibank Philippines' country business manager for global consumer group **Mark Jones**; PAL EVP for commercial group and EA to the chair **Henry So Uy**; VP for marketing support **Felix Cruz**; and the dynamic duo, PAL's AVP for products **Barbara Aragon** and program development and communications manager **Ria Domingo**.

Host **Philip Cu-Unjieng** asked Citibank and PAL executives what made this year's Citibank Rewards more special.

"We have outdone ourselves to give our cardholders what they want with a more rewarding experience," said Mark J.

"One of the surprises that we had is the welcome addition of the country's flag carrier [as a] partner. Cardholders can now exchange their Rewards Points for PAL's Mabuhay Miles and enjoy free trips and upgrades," added Citibank's cards business director **Bea Teh-Tan.**

"We're happy to become a part of Citibank Credit Cards' Rewards Program. We welcome this great opportunity to reach out to their cardholders and offer Mabuhay Miles' unique brand of service," said PAL's very spontaneous Henry S. U.

To redeem Rewards items, Citibank cardholders simply have to charge purchases to their card. Every P30 spent is equivalent to one Rewards Point.

After the superb lunch and short speeches, an exciting raffle draw was held giving us a taste of the Citibank Rewards items. Prizes included a Philips micro component, a Philips Portable DVD Player, and a Honeywell Air Purifier, plus tons of other goodies, *palanggas*.

PAL also generously donated two 15,000 Mabuhay Miles certificates making the celebration truly a rewarding experience, *naturellement*.

Night of vices

"An exclusive party at 1 Esplanade was raided by police recently." But don't be shocked, *palanggas*. It was all part of the act, dahlings.

The night started with endless free booze and chill-out music care of house DJ Spinderella for the thousand-strong mob. No invitee had a clue on the mischief Axe Vice would get into that exclusive night.

Midway through the party, a mysterious scent filled the place. What was meant to be the biggest party of the year suddenly turned into a torrid scene of passion, *palanggas*.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

Then, breaking down the walls and bursting through doors, the police secured the place. Rescue teams rushed in and were overwhelmed by what they found.

Evidence of crimes of passion was everywhere. A man was buried in whipped cream and smothered in lip marks. Another was pinned against a wall by a woman who appeared bent on mischief.

After numerous suspects were arrested, a detective stormed in to announce: "An epidemic is sweeping through the metro. There have been numerous cases of nice girls suddenly turning naughty. Here are those we have rounded up tonight."

Black curtains directly behind him dropped to reveal a dozen beautiful women in front of a 50-foot wall filled with mug shots. They were "guilty" of various crimes of passion. "We have discovered that a certain scent is responsible for this deviant behavior," the detective said.

On cue, giant screens revealed the mysterious scent. Ahh, it was the Axe Vice scent—as if you didn't know, *palanggas*—that transformed once demure and innocent girls into bold, passionate offenders.

So, beware. "Axe Vice turns nice girls naughty," as the saying goes, dahlings.

EDD Fuentes and Millet Mananquil

MOI with Citibank's Jenny Lacerna (left) and Aneth Lim

SUPRANA Holdings' Renato Tanseco and Celine Tanseco-Abella

PARAÑAQUE Mayor Jun Bernabe

NENA and Rico Tantoco

SONNY Yu and Pops Fernandez

NERCY Torilla, Jed Madela and Frances Yu

BILLY Valtos, Maloy Luchangco, Guillermo Luchangco and Donnie Tantoco

Shopwise

Moi must confess, *palanggas*, that I'm a shopping addict. If there is one thing *moi* must do, it is shop. Ahh, but I shop wisely, *di bala*? One of my favorite shopping places, Shopwise, *natch*, has now spread its wings to Sucat, *palanggas*.

This seventh store, with new concept and design, is in a 1.5-hectare complex, no less, and open 9 a.m.-11 p.m.

During cocktails, *moi* hobnobbed with other hotshots like the gorgeous **Crickette Yu Tantoco**, VP for merchandising and marketing. The cocktail party was designed to simulate the experience of flight, so we walked through a tube assisted by usherettes in flight attendant garb.

Brilliant, multifaceted restaurateur **Margarita Fores** of Cibo prepared a yummy feast, while award-winning singers, the Concert Queen herself **Pops Fernandez** and **Jed Madela**, provided in-flight entertainment, guaranteeing us a most enjoyable journey.

Upon landing, Parañaque City Mayor **Jun Bernabe** gave a short, short speech, and was followed by Santana Grove's **Celine Tanseco-Abella** and Rustan's Supercenters Inc.'s brilliant young achiever **Donnie Tantoco**, who promised that Shopwise hypermarket would continue to provide high-flying value-shopping and first-class customer service.

Then, it was time to rush and shop wisely, *palanggas*.

INNER AWARENESS
Jaime Licauco

The paranormal in the workplace

MOST PARANORMAL OCCURRENCES or psychic manifestations we hear or read about happen in homes.

But these incidents can occur anywhere—in open spaces, churches, hotels, factories, business offices, schools, cars, ships, even inside an airplane.

Here are several true stories of paranormal happenings in the work place or commercial establishments:

Strange deaths in a car accessories manufacturing firm

In the mid-'80s, Bobby, general manager of the well-known firm in Makati City, called me because of certain strange happenings in their factory.

Bobby said when one of their employees died in October they did not see anything strange about it.

"Then in November another employee in the same department also died. Still nothing so unusual from our point of view. In January, a third employee in the same department also died. "That's when I began to think something strange was going on... Do you think there is something supernatural [here]?"

"I don't know," I replied. "Did you do anything different before the incidents began?"

"What do you mean?" he asked.

"Well, anything new that you did in the factory that you did not do before. Think of anything you did before October."

Bobby said, "There's nothing unusual I can think of except I had our old warehouse cleaned to give way to an executive parking area. That warehouse was not being used for a long time..."

"That's it! "I exclaimed. "That could explain the deaths of your employees."

"What do you mean?" asked Bobby. "What has that got to do with our employees dying?"

"Hard to explain to a very rational guy like you," I told Bobby, a graduate of the Asian Institute of Management like me.

I told him that since the warehouse was not used for a long time, it could have been inhabited by negative elemental creatures.

When the place was cleaned, the creatures were dislocated. Bobby asked me if I could visit his factory and see if I could provide some explanation, and how to prevent future deaths, if indeed there was some connection among the strange events.

I brought a blind exorcist from Sampaloc who was known to contact bad spirits and get rid of them using a medium. The famous novelist and magazine editor Celso Al Carunungan came along out of curiosity.

The exorcist put his medium in a trance and asked the spirit to enter her. It was learned that there were hundreds of negative *engkantos* inside the warehouse.

When asked if they killed the three employees, the spirit said yes and explained, through the medium, "Because they were making too much noise at night."

I asked Bobby if that was true. He said the employees worked near the warehouse and usually worked overtime. To keep themselves awake, they played stereo music very loudly. That must have disturbed the *engkantos*.

They were also angered by the destruction of their habitat.

The exorcist asked them to leave the place but they refused. A battle of wills took place, which looked weird and surreal for us onlookers.

The exorcist said he would melt each one of them if they refused to leave. How one could melt a spirit, I could not comprehend.

Anyway, it took the whole afternoon before the exorcist finally "destroyed" all the so-called *engkantos* in the place.

Whether one believes this story or not, the fact remains that, after the exorcism, there were no more deaths in the factory, which eventually transferred to Quezon City.

Dead tycoon wants favorite desk back

I worked in a large, multinational company in Makati in the late '80s. When the famous son of the company founder died, a museum containing the history and family memorabilia was established within the building.

A company historian-curator was hired to oversee the museum and update the records. The tycoon had three sons, all of them educated in the United States. Each of them headed subsidiaries of the vast conglomerate.

One day, the youngest son noticed his father's beautiful narra desk was just displayed in the museum. He decided to use it as his desk and asked that it be transferred to his office.

I heard that employees started to experience ghostly manifestations in the son's room after that. When nobody was around, typewriters sounded like they were being used, paper clips flew from one desk to another and security guards noticed somebody going inside the private restroom of the son then disappearing.

The son did not believe in ghosts and considered reports of haunting merely the product of his employees' fertile imagination. When I was asked to check at the room without the son's knowledge, I noticed the center of the ghostly visits was the old man's desk.

I suggested that it be returned to the museum, as the old man apparently did not want it used by anybody else. The son, I was told, laughed at the suggestion.

The manifestations continued for some time until the son returned his father's desk.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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Martin denies Katrina called his kids monkeys

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

HERE ARE PORTIONS OF **Martin Nievera**'s kilometric text message in response to my column about the "monkey issue":

"What **Pops (Fernandez)** is telling you happened nine years ago when I was living in a small apartment that was decorated by **Katrina**'s (Ojeda) sis. When I had my boys over, they were wrestling and jumping on my bed and broke it in half.

"When I called Katrina in NY, I told her the funny story. She in turn told the story to her friends this way: 'Martin's kids broke his bed in half! They were jumping up and down like monkeys so the bed broke.'

"Pops took the monkey word out of context. Katrina was referring to the monkey-like behavior, not the children. I didn't come home to fight a war, especially with the mother of my children whom I respect and love.

"If Pops believes the person who told her this story and selects not to remember that we went through this nine years ago, then I'm sorry she was hurt by the words her informant told her. A few weeks ago, Pops and I both screamed on the phone and never finished our talk.

"Katrina would never call my kids names because she loves them and is a good friend to them. They like her, too. So I don't know why Pops would not want to believe this and would rather start a war. I hope this issue ends before it worsens."

Martin requested me not to make side comments. Talk about cramping my style. Just wondering: Couldn't Katrina compare Robin and Ram's behavior to jumping jacks or jumping beans instead of using a derogatory term like monkeys?

In Robin's Friendster account, there's a pic of a monkey. What gives?

Martin insists Katrina didn't call his kids monkeys. Fine then. But what about the "monkey business" they both got into which eventually broke Pipay's heart?

Cloud nine

PAULEEN Luna is on cloud nine these days with Valenzuela Mayor **Sherwin Gatchalian**. She gushes, "We're special friends. Super *bait ni* Win. Despite his status, he's so humble. My parents like him."

Is she ready to be a politician's wife someday? "Not yet. I don't wanna rush things," she says.

It certainly looks like she and Win are enjoying what they have now, so no need to go fast forward. Let their delightful pic say the rest. A picture does paint a thousand words. But Pauleen and Win are speechless with happiness.

PAULEEN Luna and Sherwin Gatchalian

Breakup aftermath

SOMEONE privy to **Nina**'s innermost secrets told me she's really dating **Coy Enriquez** (the brother of her guitarist), just as I wrote in a previous column. But the friend just wants to

MARTIN/ D3

POWER PLANT CINEMA

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HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX G 2:40,5:35,8:30	DIE HARD 4.0 PG13 2:00,4:40,7:20,10:00	HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX G 12:15,3:10,6:05,9:00
HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX G 1:45,4:40,7:35	HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX G 2:10,5:05,8:00	HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX G 1:15,4:10,7:05,10:00

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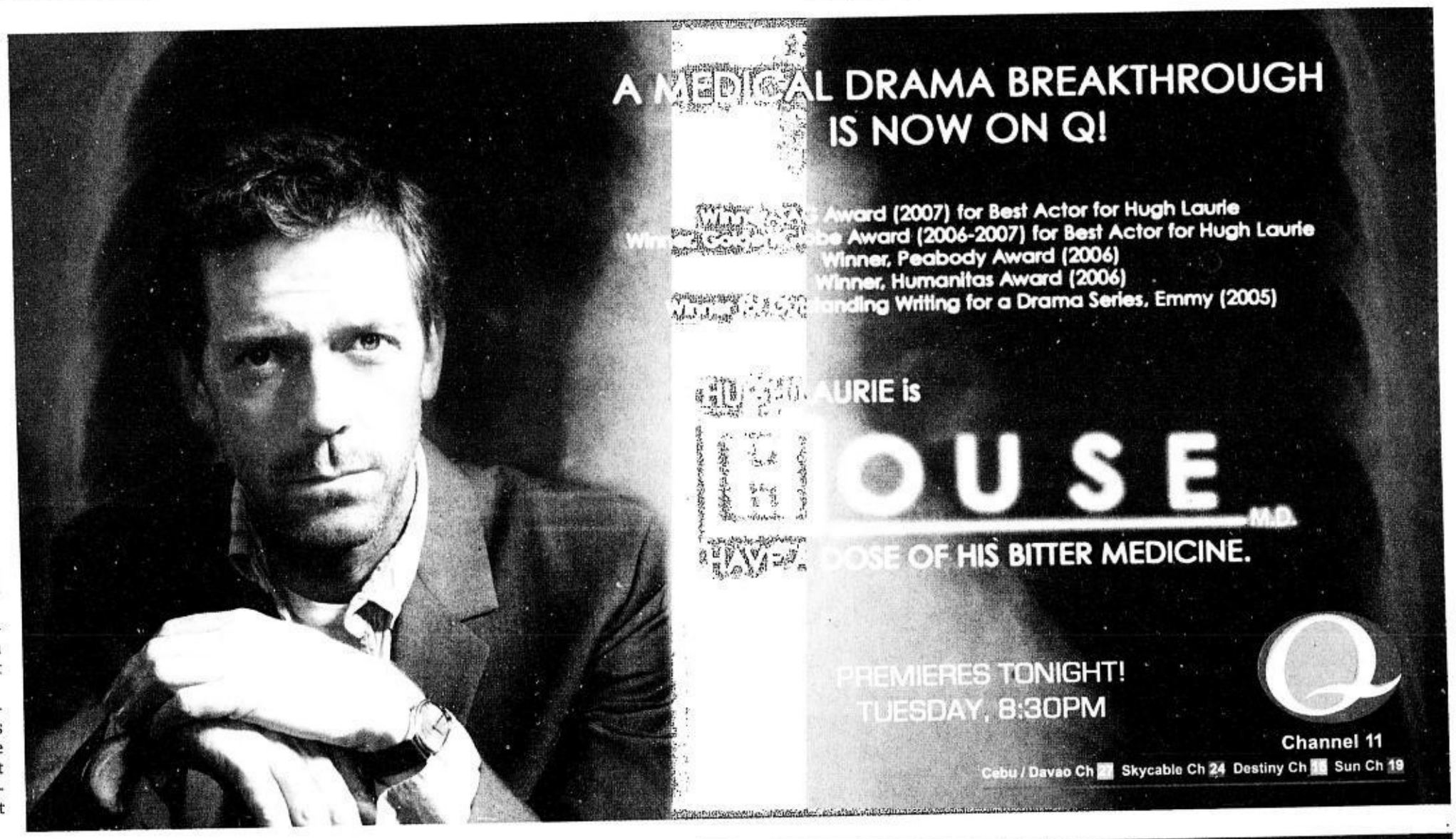

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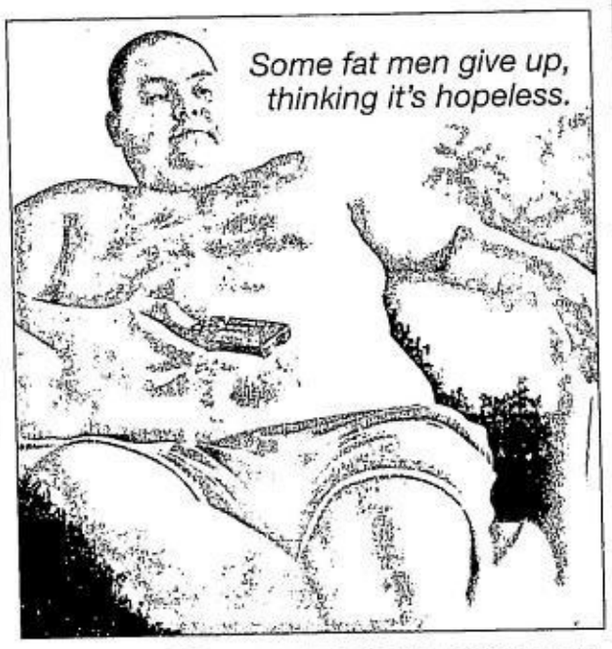
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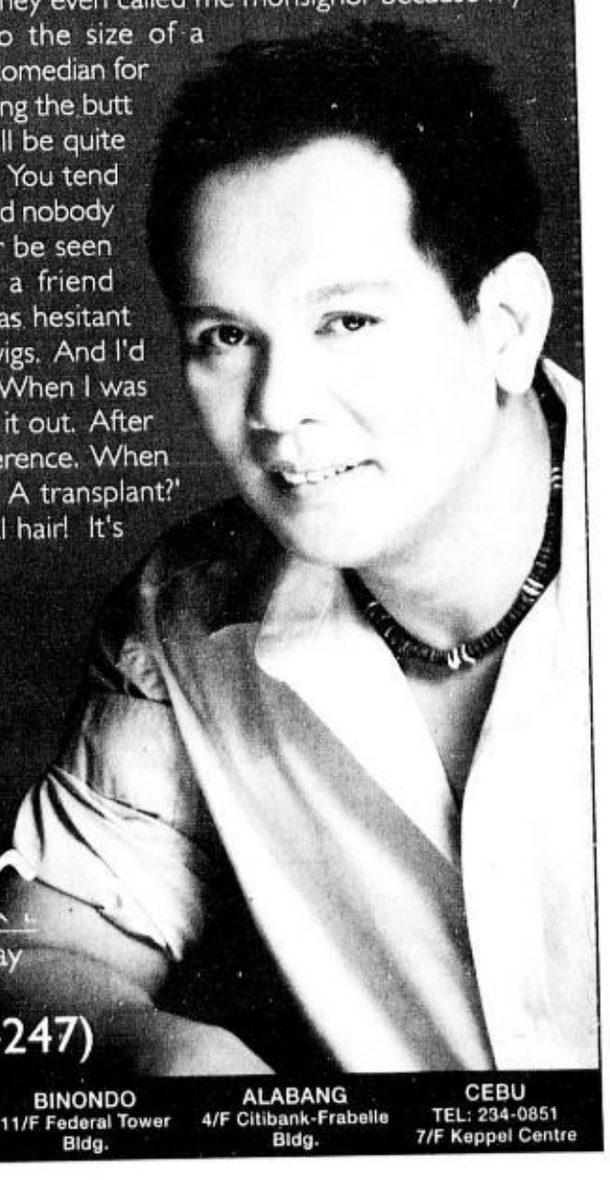
"I started losing my hair when I was still in public office. I'd see hair strands on my pillow when I woke up. I was about 35 at the time. People started teasing me about it. They even called me monsignor because my bald spot was increasing to the size of a monsignor's cap! I've been a comedian for a long time, so I'm used to being the butt of jokes. But I admit, I can still be quite conscious of my appearance. You tend to look older with less hair. And nobody wants to look old. I'd rather be seen as classic, not old! When a friend recommended Svenson, I was hesitant at first. I thought they sold wigs. And I'd rather die than wear a wig! When I was told it wasn't, I agreed to try it out. After only 3 weeks, I saw a big difference. When people ask me, 'Is it a wig? A transplant?' I say, 'No, it's my real natural hair! It's Svenson.'"

- JOEY MARQUEZ
Actor/Businessman



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1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 HARRY POTTER - 5
3 HARRY POTTER - 5
4 HARRY POTTER - 5
PREMIERE
HARRY POTTER - 5

Masagana Cinema
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 TIYANAKS
2 HARRY POTTER - 5
3 DIE HARD 4.0

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 DIE HARD 4.0
2 HARRY POTTER - 5

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 DIE HARD 4.0
3 HARRY POTTER - 5
4 TRANSFORMERS

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 HARRY POTTER - 5
3 HARRY POTTER - 5
4 DIE HARD 4.0

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TIYANAKS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
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1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 HARRY POTTER - 5
3 HARRY POTTER - 5
4 DIE HARD 4.0/TRANSFORMERS

starmall
EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7260160
3 HARRY POTTER - 5
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 RESERVED

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 6433994
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2 TRANSFORMERS
3 HARRY POTTER - 5
4 DIE HARD 4.0

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3 HARRY POTTER - 5
4

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2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4.0

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PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
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3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

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3 HARRY POTTER - 5

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2 DIE HARD 4.0
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 HARRY POTTER - 5

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1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 HARRY POTTER - 5
3 HARRY POTTER - 5
4 HARRY POTTER - 5
5 HARRY POTTER - 5
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 RATATOUILLE(SNEAK PREVIEWS)
8 TIYANAKS
9 DIE HARD 4.0
10 TRANSFORMERS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
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3 DIE HARD 4.0

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1 DIE HARD 4.0
2 HARRY POTTER - 5

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1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 TRANSFORMERS

Blue Wave
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1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 DIE HARD 4.0
3 HARRY POTTER - 5
4 TRANSFORMERS

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1 WILDERNESS
2 SUKDULAN
3 MAHAROT
4 HARRY POTTER - 5

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 TIYANAKS
3 DIE HARD 4.0
4 ANAKAN MO AKO
5 HARRY POTTER - 5

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 DIE HARD 4.0
2 HARRY POTTER - 5
3 TIYANAKS
4 HARRY POTTER - 5
5 TRANSFORMERS

Fiesta World Mall
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1 DIE HARD 4.0
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 WILDERNESS
4 HARRY POTTER - 5

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1 HARRY POTTER - 5
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3 TRANSFORMERS
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11:00 AM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
2:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
5:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
8:00 PM	FEW SEAT	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
11:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	OPEN

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METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
MALL OF ASIA CINEMAS
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 HARRY POTTER 5
5 DIE HARD 4
6 RATATOUILLE/ TIYANAKS

PREMIERE CINEMA
HARRY POTTER 5

CENTERSTAGE
HARRY POTTER 5

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HARRY POTTER 5
CINEMA 2
HARRY POTTER 5
RATATOUILLE
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SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 HARRY POTTER 5
5 DIE HARD 4
6 HARRY POTTER 5
7 HARRY POTTER 5
8 TRANSFORMERS
9 RATATOUILLE/ TIYANAKS
10 DIE HARD 4
11 HARRY POTTER 5
12 TRANSFORMERS

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 TRANSFORMERS'
2 PARAISO
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 HARRY POTTER 5
5 HARRY POTTER 5
6 DIE HARD 4
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 RATATOUILLE/HARRY POTTER 5
9 HARRY POTTER 5
10 HARRY POTTER 5
11 DIE HARD 4
12 TIYANAKS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 PARAISO
2 RATATOUILLE/FANTASTIC FOUR
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 HARRY POTTER 5
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 DIE HARD 4
7 HARRY POTTER 5
8 TIYANAKS
9 HARRY POTTER 5
10 HARRY POTTER 5
11 TRANSFORMERS
12 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 DIE HARD 4
5 HARRY POTTER 5
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 RATATOUILLE/DIE HARD 4
8 PARAISO
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 TIYANAKS

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 RATATOUILLE/ TIYANAKS
5 DIE HARD 4
6 TRANSFORMERS

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 RATATOUILLE/HARRY POTTER 5
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 DIE HARD 4
8 DIE HARD 4
9 TIYANAKS

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 DIE HARD 4
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 RATATOUILLE/ TRANSFORMERS

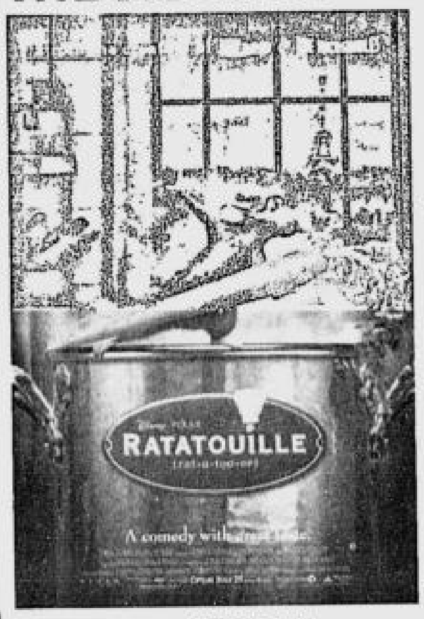
SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 DIE HARD 4
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 HARRY POTTER 5
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 HARRY POTTER 5
7 TIYANAKS
8 HARRY POTTER 5
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 HARRY POTTER 5
11 FANTASTIC FOUR
12 RATATOUILLE/DIE HARD 4

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 RATATOUILLE/DIE HARD 4
4 HARRY POTTER 5

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 RATATOUILLE/DIE HARD 4
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 DIE HARD 4
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 RATATOUILLE/ TRANSFORMERS

movietime Sneak Preview



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LUZON

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1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 DIE HARD 4
6 HARRY POTTER 5
7 TIYANAKS
8 RATATOUILLE/ PARAISO

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 DIE HARD 4
5 RATATOUILLE/ TIYANAKS
6 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 RATATOUILLE/ DIE HARD 4
4 HARRY POTTER 5

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 RATATOUILLE/ DIE HARD 4

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 RATATOUILLE/HARRY POTTER 5
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 TIYANAKS

SM CIY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 RATATOUILLE/ TRANSFORMERS
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 RATATOUILLE/ DIE HARD 4
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 RATATOUILLE/ DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 HARRY POTTER 5

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 RATATOUILLE/ DIE HARD 4

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 RATATOUILLE/ DIE HARD 4
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 HARRY POTTER 5

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 DIE HARD 4
5 RATATOUILLE/ TIYANAKS
6 HARRY POTTER 5

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 RATATOUILLE/ TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 HARRY POTTER 5

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 RATATOUILLE/HARRY POTTER 5
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 HARRY POTTER 5
5 HARRY POTTER 5
6 HARRY POTTER 5
7 TIYANAKS
8 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 DIE HARD 4
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 HARRY POTTER 5
5 RATATOUILLE/HARRY POTTER 5
6 TIYANAKS
7 HARRY POTTER 5
8 TRANSFORMERS

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1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 RATATOUILLE/ TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4

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Cinema	Movie	Times	Rating
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2	HARRY POTTER 5	12:15 , 3:05 , 5:55 8:45	GP

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Cinema	Movie	Times	Rating
3	DIE HARD // HARRY POTTER	11:05 , 1:55 , 4:45 7:35 // 10:30	PG-13 // GP
4	HARRY POTTER 5	10:20 , 1:05 , 3:55 6:45 , 9:35	GP
5	HARRY POTTER 5	10:45 , 1:40 , 4:30 7:20 , 10:10	GP

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Venue	Date	Show	Time
MUSIC MUSEUM	July 27, 2007	Willie Nep " Feelin Las Vegas "	8:30 PM
		The Repeat	
	August 03 & 04, 2007	Joey Albert	8:30 PM
	August 24 & 25 , 2007	Ogie Alcasid & Regine Velasquez	8:00 PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS	July 13 , 20 , 27 , 2007	Drag - Ons	10:00 PM
	August 8-9 , 15-16 , 22-23 , 29-30	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

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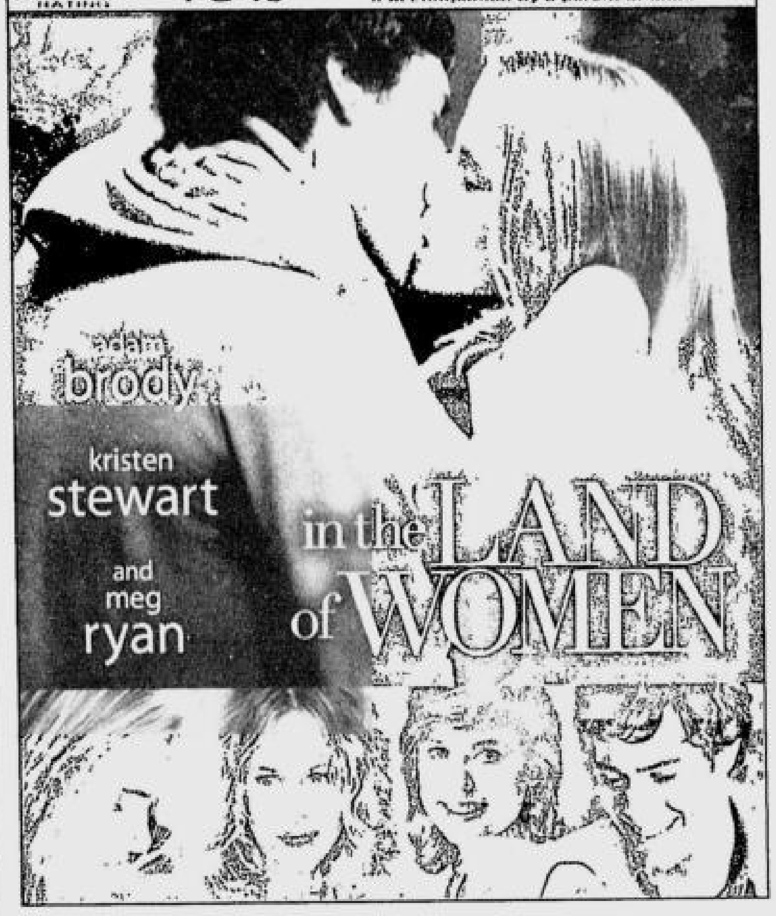

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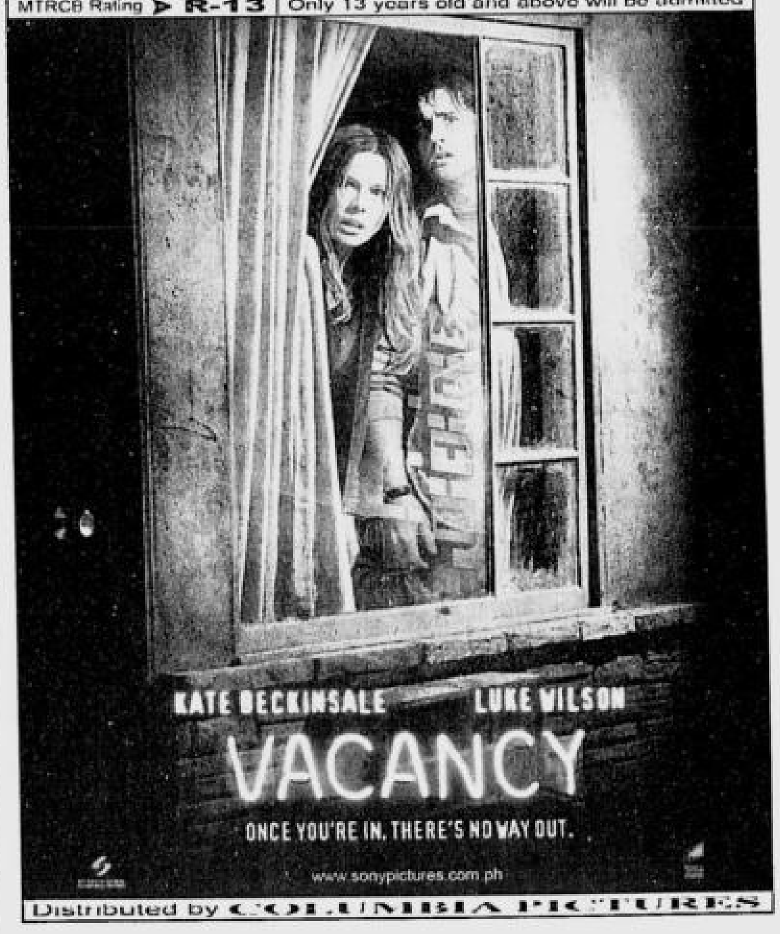
OPENS TOMORROW
MTRCB Rating ▶ R-13 | Only 13 years old and above will be admitted



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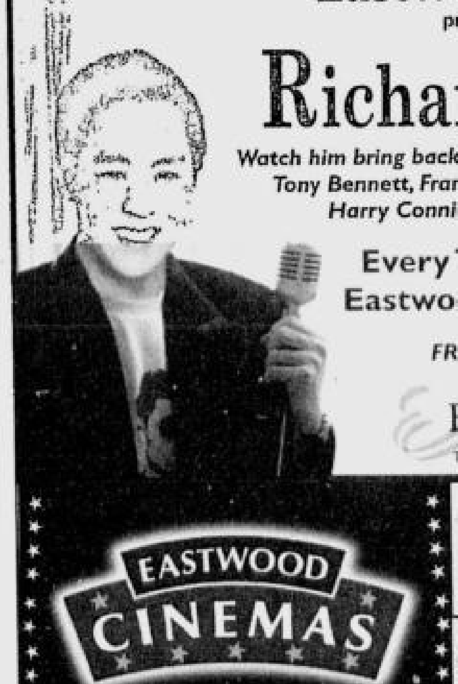
Eastwood City presents

Richard Poon



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Cinema	Movie	Times	Rating
1	HARRY POTTER	12:35, 3:40, 6:25, 9:20	G
2	HARRY POTTER	2:10, 5:05, 8:00, 10:55	G
3	HARRY POTTER	1:20, 4:15, 7:10, 10:05	G
4	TRANSFORMERS	2:20, 8:30	G
4	DIE HARD	5:20, 11:25	PG-13

To receive Eastwood City Events, Promos and Cinema schedule just text eastwood and send to 2948 for Globe, Smart & Sun Cellular subscribers

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Thriller in Venice film fest

HONG KONG—TAIwanese director Ang Lee says his new Chinese-language spy thriller "Lust, Caution" has been invited to compete for the top Golden Lion prize at this year's Venice Film Festival.

The selection comes two years after Lee's gay romance film "Brokeback Mountain" won the Golden Lion in 2005. It went on to earn Lee an Oscar for best director in 2006.

"They (the Venice festival organizers) invited us to take part in the competition. I think they quite liked the movie. I think they're very happy that I'm returning to Venice after 'Brokeback Mountain,'" Lee said in an interview with the Chinese news website Sina.com.

Footage of the interview was posted on Sina.com Friday.

The addition of "Lust, Caution" has not been officially announced. This year's festival lineup is due to be released July 26 in Rome. Organizers did not immediately respond to an e-mail seeking confirmation of the movie's inclusion.

"Lust, Caution," based on a short story by famed Chinese writer Eileen Chang, is about a group of patriotic students who plot to assassinate the intelligence chief of China's Japan-backed World War II-era government.

It features Cannes best actor winner Tony Leung Chiu-wai, Joan Chen from "The Last Emperor," and Chinese-American pop star Leehom Wang.

Lee said that postproduction work on the movie was going smoothly, and that he had spent several months editing the film and has moved on to music, dubbing and special effects. *AP*

Martin denies

From page D1

clarify that Coy is not the reason why Nina and Nyoy Volante split up.

"It's unfair for people to judge Nina just because she has moved on without Nyoy. Nina loved Nyoy to the point that she accepted the fact that he has a love child."

So Coy is the aftereffect and not the cause of the breakup. I wonder if Nyoy will do a version of Nina's hit "Jealous" and make it his swan song for her.

Personal

Merci beaucoup to my newfound friends, **Aiza Remedios** and **Anthony Legarda** of Aizen Salon (116-B Tomas Morato corner Scout Lozano), for making me feel instantly at home. I was transported to a world of total bliss in Aizen.

Thanks a mil to the lovable PMPC president Fernan de Guzman for taking me to Aizen. It's like a rainbow after the recent storm in my life.

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

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aranetacenter.net

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Gateway CinePlex*10 — FULL STADIUM SEATING

HARRY POTTER 5
11:30 / 12:30 / 1:10 / 2:00 / 2:20
3:20 / 4:00 / 4:20 / 4:50
5:10 / 6:10 / 6:50 / 7:10 / 7:40
8:00 / 9:00 / 9:40 / 10:00

RATATOUILLE 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40
DIE HARD 4 2:00 / 4:40 / 7:20 / 10:00
TRANSFORMERS 1:00 / 4:00 / 7:00 / 10:00
HARRY POTTER 5 12:30 / 3:20 / 6:10 / 9:00

NiMALL 5

1 HARRY POTTER 5 2:10 / 5:05 / 8:00
2 DIE HARD 4 12:30 / 3:10 / 5:50 / 8:30
3 HARRY POTTER 5 11:50 / 2:45 / 5:40 / 8:35
4 RATATOUILLE 12:20 / 3:00 / 5:40 / 8:20
5 TRANSFORMERS 12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

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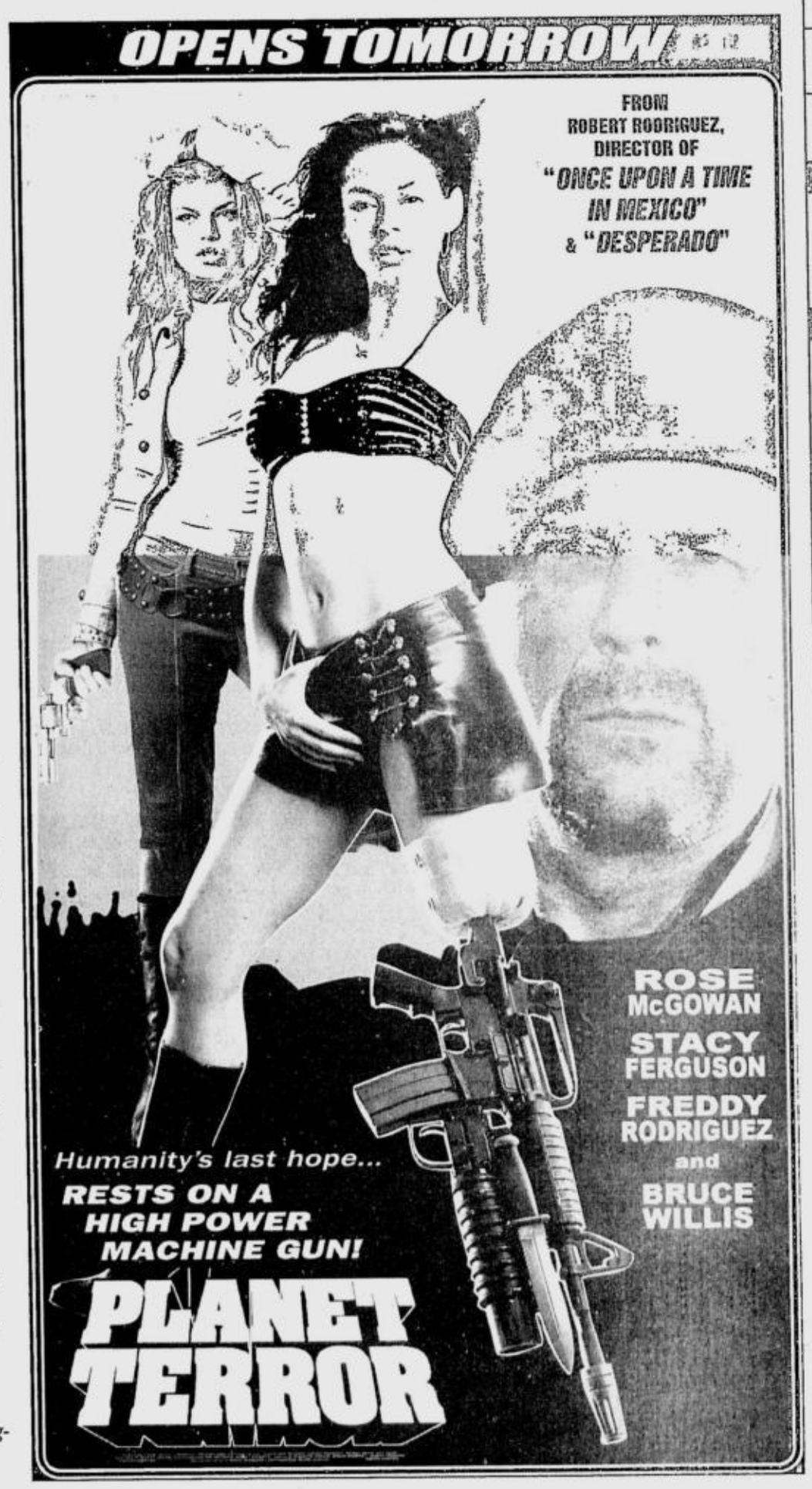

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 HARRY POTTER 5 • THX
1:30 4:10 6.50 9.30LMF
2 HARRY POTTER 5
11:20MF 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00LMF
3 HARRY POTTER 5
12:00MF 2:40 5:20 8:00LMF
4 HARRY POTTER 5
12:30MF 3:10 5:50 8:30LMF
5 HARRY POTTER 5
1:00MF 3:40 6:20 9:00LMF
6 RATATOUILLE Sneak Preview
12:00MF 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00LMF
7 TIYANAKS
1:00MF 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40
8 indieSine: TULI
12:00MF 2:25 4:50 7:15 9:40LMF
9 TRANSFORMERS
1:45MF 4:30 7:15 10:00LMF
10 DIE HARD 4
11:20MF 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00LMF

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OPENS JULY 11 AT

ERMITA

1 HARRY POTTER 5
10:35MF 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
2 DIE HARD 4
11:00MF 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
3 HARRY POTTER 5
1:00MF 3:50 6:40 9:30
4 HARRY POTTER 5
11:20MF 2:10 5:00 7:50
5 HARRY POTTER 5
11:50MF 2:40 5:30 8:20
6 RATATOUILLE Sneak Previews
7 HARRY POTTER 5
12:20MF 3:10 6:00 8:50LMF

METRO EAST
1 TRANSFORMERS
12.00MF 3:05 6.10 9:10LMF
2 HARRY POTTER 5
1:20MF 4:00 6:40LMF
3 HARRY POTTER 5
10:40MF 1:20 4:00 6:40 9:20LMF
4 DIE HARD 4
12:10MF 3:10 6:10 9:10LMF
5 HARRY POTTER 5
11:30MF 2:10 4:50 7:30LMF
6 HARRY POTTER 5
3:10MF 5:50LMF
7 HARRY POTTER 5
12:30MF 3:10 5:50 8:30LMF
8 RATATOUILLE Sneak Previews

NOVALICHES
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 TIYANAKS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 HARRY POTTER 5
6 DIE HARD 4
7 RATATOUILLE Sneak Previews

PIONEER
1 HARRY POTTER 5
11:00MF 2:00 4:50 8.00
2 HARRY POTTER 5
11.30MF 2:30 5:20 8:30
3 TRANSFORMERS
12.20 3.00
4 DIE HARD 4
12.40 3.20 6.00 8:40

STA. ROSA — Ticket Price: P80 / P90 — (049) 837-0907
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TRANSFORMERS

LIPA — Ticket Price: P90 — (043) 312-5870
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 TIYANAKS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 DIE HARD 4

DASMARINAS — Ticket Price: P80 / P90 — (046) 416-1332
1 TIYANAKS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 HARRY POTTER 5
5 HARRY POTTER 5

IMUS — (046) 471-5188
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 RATATOUILLE Sneak Previews
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 DIE HARD 4
6 HARRY POTTER 5

ANGELES — Ticket Price: P80 / P90 — (045) 892-2348
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 HARRY POTTER 5

TARLAC
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 DIE HARD 4
TRANSFORMERS

STARMILLS — (045) 875-1927
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TIYANAKS
5 HARRY POTTER 5
6 HARRY POTTER 5

BACOLOD — Ticket Price: P70 — (034) 441-0459
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 RESERVE
5 RATATOUILLE Sneak Previews
6 DIE HARD 4

ILOILO — Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 — (033) 336-8070
1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 RATATOUILLE Sneak Previews
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 HARRY POTTER 5
5 DIE HARD 4
6 TRANSFORMERS

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RATATOUILLE (rat-a-too-ee)
opens JULY 25
MTRCB Rating: G

Coming soon: 'The Simpsons Movie'

KID FIT

THIS YEAR'S MOST ANTICIPATED OUT-OF-THE tube cartoon, "The Simpsons Movie," will have its invitational gala screening on July 21 at the Glorietta 4.

The movie begins with Homer, his new pet pig and a leaky silo full of droppings—a combination that triggers a disaster the likes of which Springfield has never experienced.

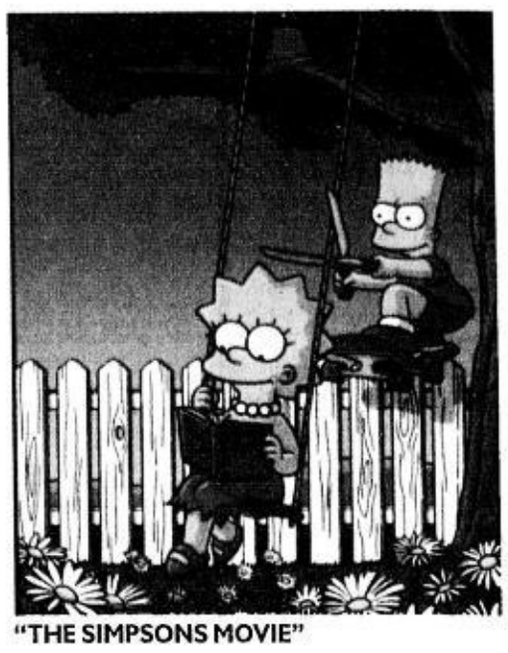
The Springfield citizenry has every reason to be out for Simpson blood. The calamity triggered by Homer has drawn the attention of US President Arnold Schwarzenegger (voiced by Harry Shearer) and Environmental Protection Agency head Russ Cargill (voiced by Albert Brooks).

As the fates of Springfield and the world hang in the balance, Homer embarks on a personal odyssey of redemption—seeking forgiveness from Marge, the reunion of his splintered family and the salvation of his hometown.

"The Simpsons" came to life 20 years ago, when Matt Groening was asked to provide animated segments for the comedy series "The Tracy Illman Show," airing on the Fox network. Groening didn't want to give up rights to his popular "Life in Hell" cartoons, so he created, on the spot, the Simpson family characters.

Starring in "The Simpsons Movie" are series regulars Dan Castellaneta, Julie Kavner, Nancy Cartwright, Yeardley Smith, Hank Azaria, Harry Shearer, Pamela Hayden and Tress MacNeille.

"The Simpsons Movie" opens July 25 in Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cagayan De Oro and Bohol theaters from 20th Century Fox to be distributed by Warner Bros.

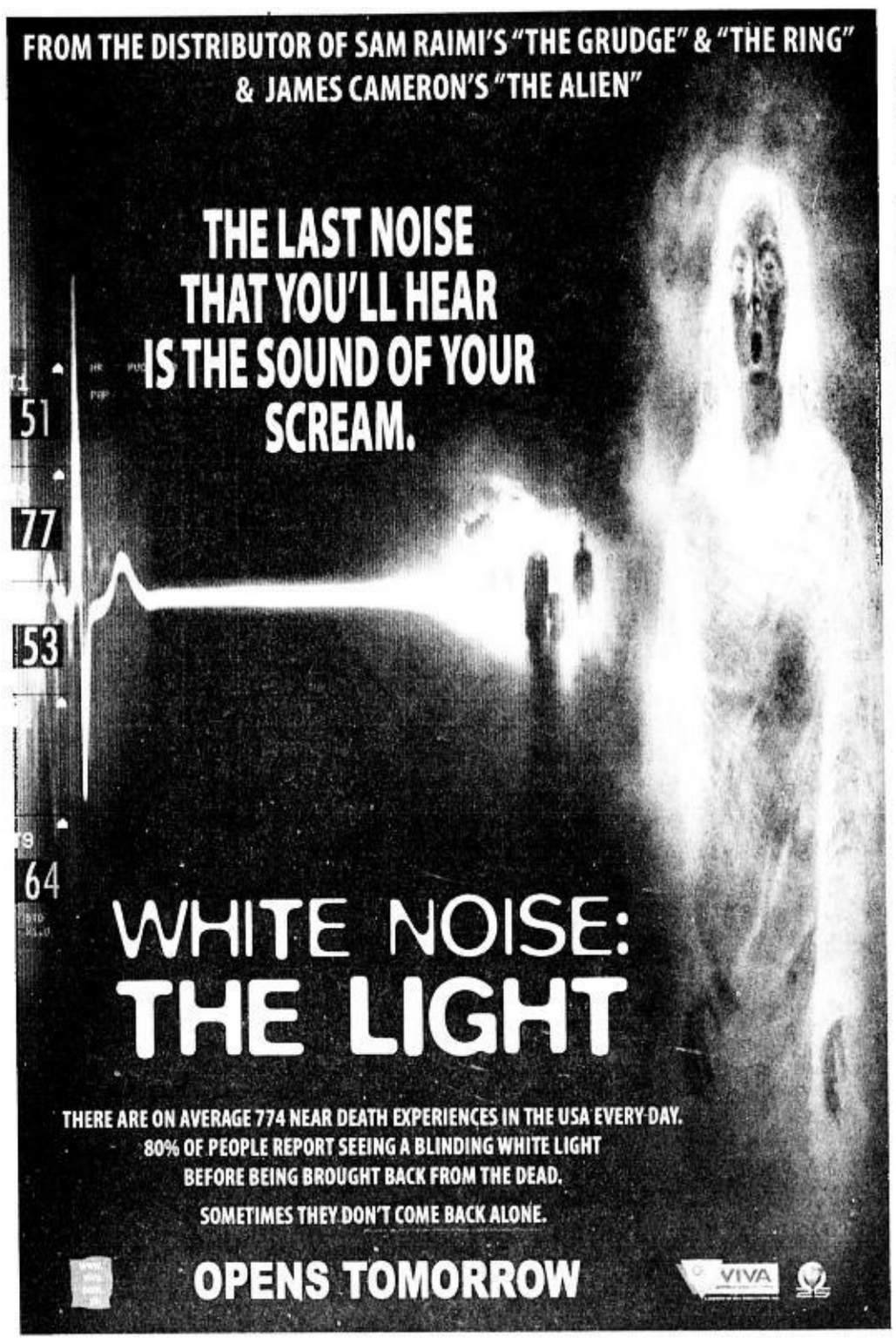


"THE SIMPSONS MOVIE"

Monkey buddy

Wild jungle fun continues in the classroom in all-new episodes of "My Gym Partner's a Monkey," weekdays at 6 p.m. on Cartoon Network.

Through a mix-up at the Central School District's Admissions Office, Adam Lyon is accidentally transferred to the all-animal Charles Darwin Middle School, where all the zoo animals send their kids. Although Adam becomes fast friends with Jake Spider Monkey on the first day of school, he quickly realizes that having a monkey as best buddy isn't always easy and he has his hands full trying to make it through school alive.



SHANG CINEPLEX

1 HARRY POTTER: ORDER OF THE PHOENIX MTRCB GP 12:45, 3:40, 6:35, 9:30
2 HARRY POTTER: ORDER OF THE PHOENIX MTRCB GP 12:15, 3:10, 6:05, 9:00
3 HARRY POTTER: ORDER OF THE PHOENIX MTRCB GP 11:15, 2:10, 5:05, 8:00
4 HARRY POTTER: ORDER OF THE PHOENIX MTRCB GP 11:45, 2:40, 5:35, 8:30

PREMIERE THEATRE: HARRY POTTER: 5 (GP) 4:10, 7:05; DIE HARD 4.0 (PG-13) 1:15, 10:00

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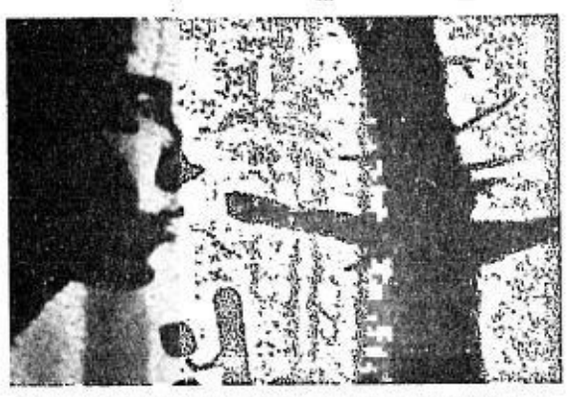

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GLORIETTA 1	1 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	3 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	4 DIE HARD 4.0
GLORIETTA 4	1 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	3 THX HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 DIE HARD 4.0	5 RATATOUILLE / TRANSFORMERS	6 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	7 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX
GREENBELT 1	1 DIE HARD 4.0	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS	5 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX		
	3 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	4 DIE HARD 4.0	5 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	3 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	4 DIE HARD 4.0
MARKET! MARKET!	1 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 DIE HARD 4.0		
	3 TRANSFORMERS	4 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	5 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1 DIE HARD 4.0	2 RATATOUILLE / TRANSFORMERS	3 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS	4 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS
	5 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	6 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	7 THX HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS	

AT THE MALLS
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Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000
Ayala

Glorietta — Avida Home Expo, July 20 to 22, 2007
Greenbelt — Brazilian Latino Jazz Night, July 18, 2007 at Greenbelt 2
Alabang Town Center — Electroworld Exhibit, July 13 to 22, 2007
Ayala Center Cebu — Accounting Quiz Bowl, July 18, 2007
Market! Market! — BPI Appliance Madness, July 6 to 22, 2007
Greenbelt Onstage — ONSTAGE - The perfect spot for concerts, stage plays & coporate events is now accepting bookings for May to July 2007. For bookings, pls. call 752-7862 or 757-3861
Ayala Museum — Damian Domingo: The First Great Filipino Painter Exhibit - June 19 to Jan. 6, 2008; Pioneers of Philippine Art - June 15 to January 6, 2008. For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma — BARBIE BIRTHDAY BASH, July 1 (2PM & 4PM) at the Activity Center; HUMAN'S RICO BLANCO EXHIBIT, July 2 to 15 (Mall Hours) at the 1st Level Exhibit Area

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GLORIETTA 4
MARKET! MARKET!
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